Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred
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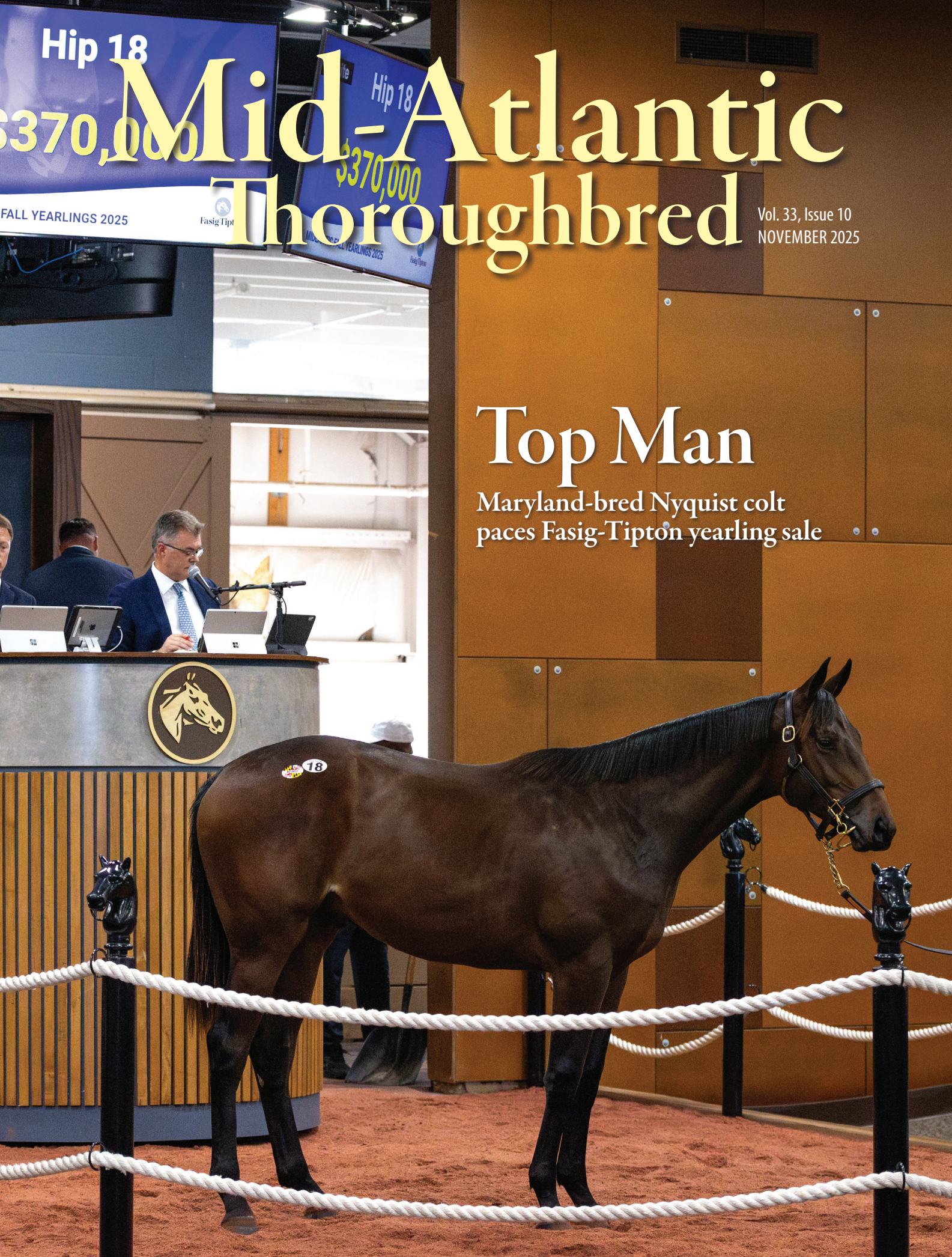

Top Man

Maryland-bred Nyquist colt paces Fasig-Tipton yearling sale

Come Along for the Ride

Country Life Farm Racing and Breeding Partnerships

Coady Media

ENGLISHMAN

Debuted in $121,015 MSW on Sept. 19, running a 97 Beyer. "Annihilated maidens at Churchill Downs winning by 7¼ lengths, covering the seven furlongs in 1:21.35, just two-fifths off track record. He could be better than Baeza." (*Thoroughbred Daily News*, Sept. 22)

Out of Country Life Breeding Partnership mare IN IT FOR THE GOLD, a $75,000 purchase in 2023. His dam has a Mandaloun weanling filly and is in foal to top second-crop sire TIZ THE LAW.

Benoit photo

MODUS BESTIA

Sold by a Country Life Breeding Partnership as a weanling for $140,000, resold as a yearling for $500,000, MODUS BESTIA broke his maiden at Del Mar by 3 lengths on Sept. 7, running a 99 Beyer in a $126,500 allowance. He is being pointed for the G1 Malibu Stakes in December. His dam, the $82,000 Malibu Moon mare Make Amends, is currently in foal to MUTH for a Country Life Breeding Partnership.

ARGOS

Winner of the $600,000 G1 Summer Stakes at Woodbine on Sept. 13, ARGOS earned a berth in the $1 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf on Oct. 31. A Country Life Racing Partnership owns his 1/2-sister, winner INCISIVE KITTEN, a daughter of Kitten's Joy who cost $32,000 as a yearling.

Michael Burns Photography

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

A small but mighty yearling sale

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale continues to condense in size, but posts gains in gross and average. A Maryland-bred Nyquist colt gives Becky Davis a third consecutive sales-topper. By Joe Clancy. Page 20

Shamrock Farm leaves lasting impact

Slated as a potential training center, Maryland's Shamrock Farm leaves behind plenty of memories as a working Thoroughbred breeding farm for 70-plus years. By Liane Crossley. Page 30

Pennsylvania breeder's legacy extends to family

Bill Hartwell died in April, but he continues to drive the Thoroughbred decisions of his family. By Liane Crossley. Page 38

Steeplechase Times: Opportunity knocks

Two lucrative filly/mare hurdle stakes at Colonial Downs incentivize investment and spur results as Timetoshine (Fr) wins Life's Illusion for Pennsylvania's Runnymoore Racing and Maryland trainer Mark Beecher. By Joe Clancy. Page 42

Trackside – Parx Racing: Baeza gets his Grade 1

California-based but a frequent East Coast runner this year, Baeza takes down the Pennsylvania Derby on the track's biggest day. By Paul Halloran. Page 48

Trackside – Presque Isle Downs: Smooch Up scores

Homebred 2-year-old filly Smooch Up conquers the Debutante Stakes for Robert and Tammy Klimasewski. By Joe Clancy. Page 52

On our cover: A Maryland-bred Nyquist colt checks out the crowd while flying up to $370,000 to top the fall yearling sale at Timonium, Md.

Fasig-Tipton Photo

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through December 2025

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$125,000 JUVENILE FILLY 2YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

December 20

$100,000 HOWARD & SONDRA BENDER MEMORIAL
3YO & Up, 7 furlongs

$100,000 POLITELY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 furlongs

Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred

Volume 33, Issue 10

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Eclipse Champion Sire Coming to Virginia for 2026

CROSS TRAFFIC, sire of Eclipse Champion 2YO filly JAYWALK, will stand the 2026 breeding season at the historic Mt. Airy Farm in Millwood, Virginia.

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Cross Traffic is currently available for inspection at O'Sullivan Farms

Post Time

MASTERFUL. Gal in a Rush (right) helps light up the night sky in the Grade 2 Presque Isle Downs Masters Stakes at Presque Isle Sept. 19. The daughter of Ghostzapper prevailed by a length over favorite Ellen Jay (left), with Tricky Temper a nose back in third. *Renee Torbit/Coady Media*

Say It Again

"It's a one-way street, I only have to look one way."
Shamrock Farm's Jim Steele, staying safe before starting a telephone interview

"This sale gives people time to look at horses. The good that does for the buyers, as well as the consignors, is key."
Consignor Becky Davis, about Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale

"When I got into this business of selling horses 20 years ago, I wanted to be known for buying and selling good horses honestly and with integrity. I guess my legacy is, 'He makes good ice cream.' There could be worse things."
Northview Stallion Station's David Wade, whose ice cream attracts potential buyers at Saratoga (but not Timonium)

"After you come from Keeneland where you walk up and down and don't get anything, you come here and it's a little ego boost. 'Hey, I do know what I'm doing. I can make this work. I can get one bought.' It's nice to get the horse that you really want bought."
Buyer Dave Scanlon, about shopping at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale

"They start with, 'Do you have a minute?' That's how you know it's an interview."
Trainer Andy Simoff, whose undefeated (through September) 2-year-old stakes winner Jumping the Gun had the phone ringing again

"I get to keep him."
Trainer Katy Voss, happy to add a full-brother to Breeders' Cup Sprint winner Aloha West to her racing stable after he failed to meet his reserve at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale

Names of the Month

Compiled by Barrie Reightler

Shakennotstirred. Breeder Jennifer Small's yearling colt, who sold for $37,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale, pays homage to his sire Blofeld. Ernest Stavro Blofeld was a villain in the James Bond series of novels and films. His nemesis, Bond, of course enjoyed his martinis "shaken not stirred."

Willyoumarryme. Sold for $19,000 by Northview Stallion Station for Black Fox Farm at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic, the dark bay filly is by Engage out of Love Heart.

Who's There. Sold for $5,000 by Northview Stallion Station for Thornmar Farm, the bay filly is by Maximum Security out of Glimpse.

Then What Time. Bred in Virginia by Smitten Farm and owned by New Jersey's Colts Neck Stables, the 3-year-old gelded son of Not This Time won at Colonial Downs in August.

Swore. A September steeplechase stakes winner in Aqueduct's Lonesome Glory-G1, the Stone Farm homebred is by Broken Vow.

Law School. A Parx Racing maiden winner in August for trainer and co-owner Jamie Ness, the 2-year-old filly is out of Argue My Case.

Breeding by Names?

It's probably not a recommended pedigree strategy, but two yearlings offered at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic in September spurred some thought.

Hip 106, sold by Northview Stallion Station, is by Engage out of Thirst for Diamond. The filly came with a name, Engage At Will, but you could go any number of directions there. She sold for $22,000.

Hip 154, sold by Morgan's Ford Farm, is by Catholic Boy out of Church. The bay filly sold to Anthony Aguirre for $2,500, and he can have some fun with her name.

Couple of Chimney Sweeps

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred's Joe Clancy interrupted trainer Mark Beecher's chimney repair for an interview in October with a smart-alec, "The smoke goes up," comment. Ever on point, Beecher replied, "And Santa Claus goes down."

Hats for Sale

Here we go again. In another anything-but-scientific survey of baseball-style caps worn at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale in September, we present the following represented brands: Maryland Horse Breeders Association (nice), Simoff Horse Transportation, Country Life Farm, Breeders' Cup (Post Time), Freedom Road (the horse), Fasig-Tipton, Dale Capuano Racing Stable, Air Force Academy, Nike, WynOaks Farm, Hoppel Horse Sales, Make Horses Healthy Again, Sallee Horse Transportation, McMahon Thoroughbreds, Coolmore, Imagining, Los Angeles Dodgers, Preakness 150, Keeneland (that's a flex), Bentz (Oregon ranch family and horse sale, we think), Curlin, Baltimore Ravens, Baltimore Orioles, Kentucky Oaks.

THE RACING BIZ
The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Fasig-Tipton yearling sale "gets you runners": "The sale has been good to so many people," said sales director Paget Bennett. "Not only do we find people that have success pinhooking. . . we've also got people that buy and race them."

Milestone reminded Bocachica how much he worked: Charles Town-based jockey Arnaldo Bocachica thought he'd be lucky to get to 1,000 wins, so hitting 3,000 Oct. 1 was a reminder of all that went into the milestone.

Remembering Mike Valiante: Delaware Park racing had no better friend than Mike Valiante, who passed away unexpectedly Sept. 6.

Go Figure

0 Socks worn by Becky Davis – channeling breeder and former client Larry Johnson, who died in February – at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale Sept. 30.

11,000 Dollars trainer Henry Carroll spent on a Dancing Count filly at Timonium in 1987, the first sale for consignor Becky Bowman (now Davis) who topped the 2025 sale with a $370,000 Nyquist colt.

6 Times auctioneer Andy White used Hip 220's name, Hurry Up Buttercup, as filler between bids at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale Sept. 30. Bred by Thornmar Farm, the filly out of Just Say Goodbye sold for $75,000.

2 Horses between a colt by Aloha West (Hip 213) and a full-brother to Aloha West (Hip 216) sold at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's yearling sale.

5 Horses who won their next starts after running at the Races at Fair Hill in Maryland Aug. 30. The group included flat winners Tiger Paw, Icandothat and Super Chunk (the latter two are half-brothers), plus hurdle winners Box Office Warrior and Gossiper.

Booker makes sales history at Timonium

For someone who made history as the first female auctioneer to sell at a major Thoroughbred auction in the United States Sept. 30, Camille Booker did a great job of keeping everything in perspective.

"It wasn't about me today, right?" she said, a few minutes after finishing her time in the stand at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale in Timonium, Md. "It's more about setting the precedent for future young ladies behind me. At the same time, at the end of the day it is a job. And the goal is to make the sellers happy and make the buyers happy and earn their trust along the way. Hopefully that was achieved today."

Among the yearlings sold by Booker at the sale was Hip 158, a $190,000 daughter of Upstart and the sale's fourth-highest offering, so the results will stand as she split time with regulars Andy White and Joseph Mast. Booker joined Stephanie Grentell, the first woman to auctioneer at a public Thoroughbred yearling sale in Australia "and quite likely the world" at Inglis in 2014; Aurelie Branere, who sold horses at Arqana in France in 2015; and Shirley Anderson-Jolag, who sold horses at Tattersalls in Great Britain last year.

Booker came to the role with plenty of experience.

Her family owns an auction company in Eltopia, Wash., and she works the famed Barrett-Jackson collector car auctions – where she was the first woman to sell for the company founded in 1971 – among other venues. She has sold cars, trucks, trailers, tractors, real estate and pretty much anything else you can think of while following her grandparents and parents into the business. She attended auction school at 16 and joined Booker Auction Company after graduating from the University of Washington in 2004. In 2011 she won the title of women's international auctioneer champion; the same year Mast won the men's division.

FASIG-TIPTON PHOTO

Camille Booker makes history at Timonium.

Booker worked Timonium as a bid spotter in May 2023, another history-making assignment, but her horse interest goes back much further.

"When I was a kid, I fell in love with Thoroughbreds," she said. "I loved horses growing up as a kid. My family took us to Kentucky when I was in grade school, and I thought I wanted to become a jockey. Unfortunately, when I hit sixth grade, those dreams went out the door. I don't think I would have made a very good 6-foot jockey. This is the best I can do, right? It was just growing up and getting to ride at home, but nothing professional. It's every girl's dream, right? To have a horse. We had a couple, but I never got to be a jockey."

Instead, she gets to sell future mounts for jockeys. At Timonium, buyers and sellers noticed the different sound as Booker – like all auctioneers

– has a distinct voice, cadence and filler words.

"I grew up listening to my dad and my uncles, so I think I probably have some their cadence and their style," she said. "But I've been blessed to work with some really great auctioneers and we all glean from each other. You're like, 'OK, that sounds good.' I might pick something up and put it into mine. I'm always playing with it, always tweaking it.

"Everybody's filler words end up sounding like just a lot of gibberish, because you're rolling it that quick on your tongue. But I think we all have a little bit of personal style. It'd be boring if we all said the same thing."

Booker said she felt some nerves the first time she stepped into the Timonium stand, but they were gone during her second and third hitches of the day that included 197 horses going through the ring. And, yes, selling horses is a little different than cars or land or her assignment the following day in Utah – a 107-lot sale of onion processing and packaging equipment topped by a $17,750 roll sizer.

"At home, we deal with a client that potentially is going through a bankruptcy or a retirement, or maybe they're doing a dispersal of some capacity," she said. "It's a lot of working with them through the whole entire process. When you go to a collector car sale, that is very much an emotion because they're playing off of something they want. At a Thoroughbred sale, it's very transactional. They're very astute buyers. They never get super excited. We get some energy at the November sale, and Saratoga has some different action to it. Every event is a little bit different, every auction has a style, and I'm blessed to have the opportunity."

Like Booker, her boss put history making aside and focused on the job at hand.

"We didn't have any fanfare or attention brought to it up front, on purpose, because she sold today because she's a qualified professional," said Fasig-Tipton CEO Boyd Browning. "Anybody that was in this crowd or anybody who was watching on the internet said, 'It's a quality professional that happens to be a female.' Our company wants to be associated with and to have our employees to be quality professionals regardless of their sex . . . we want good people who do a good job and do the right thing."

– Joe Clancy

Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners

September 9 – October 6

Maryland-bred

HAD TO HAVE HIM, b.g., 2021, Force the Pass—Success At Sunup, by Successful Appeal. B-Wes Carter; O-Gracie Mae Stables & Great Lake Stable; T-John E. Salzman Jr. $100,000 Laurel Dash S, Laurel, Sept. 13.

KEYS DISCOUNT, dk.b./br.g., 2019, Medal Count—Divertimento, by Rizzi. B-Bryan Minnich; O-Dolly Fisher; T-Jack Fisher. $30,000 Brown Advisory Timber S, Shawan Downs, Sept. 27.

LIVE STREAM, b.g., 2023, Long River—Goodnight Angel, by Touch Gold. B-Mr. & Mrs. Charles McGinnes; O-R J G Management; T-Murray Rojas. $100,000 Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial Juvenile S, Presque Isle, Sept. 19.

New Jersey-bred

BINGO'S BIRKIN, b.f., 2021, Sea Wizard—Future Story, by Tale of the Cat. B-Colonial Farms; O-Gerardo Franco; T-Jose Lozano Sanchez. $85,000 Pinot Grigio H, Monmouth, Sept. 13.

GOLD TRUST, b.g., 2021, Handsome Mike—Taty's Gold, by Touch Gold. B/T-Mike Dini; O-Ballybrit Stable. $85,000 Joey P. H, Monmouth, Sept. 14.

Pennsylvania-bred

CANDY REWARD, b.f., 2021, Warrior's Reward—Unimagineable, by Twirling Candy. B/O-Warrior's Reward; T-Brandon Kulp. $100,000 H.B.P.A. S, Presque Isle, Oct. 6.

CAROUSEL QUEEN, ch.f., 2022, Uptowncharlybrown—La Padrina, by El Padrino. B/O-Dennis Johnson; T-Scott Lake. $100,000 Imply S, Parx, Sept. 19.

COME PRIMA, gr./ro.g., 2022, Well Spelled—My Sonata, by Noble Causeway. B-Godstone Farm; O-Red Barn Farm; T-T. Bernard Houghton. $100,000 Prince Lucky S, Parx, Sept. 19.

NINETYPRCENTMADDIE, b.g., 2020, Weigelia—Amblin Easy, by Private Interview. B/O-LC Racing; T-Robert Reid Jr. $100,000 Storm Cat S, Parx, Sept. 19.

SMOOCH UP, gr./ro.f., 2023, Cupid—Shush Up, by Silent Name (Jpn). B/O-Tammy & Robert Klimasewski; T-Ron Potts. $100,000 Presque Isle Debutante S, Presque Isle, Sept. 19.

Virginia-bred

GIGANTE, b.h., 2020, Not This Time—Summertime Green, by Empire Maker. B-Ann Mudge Backer & Smitten Farm; O-L & N Racing & Clark Brewster; T-Steve Asmussen. $75,000 Remington Green S, Remington, Sept. 28.

West Virginia-bred

C'MON EILEEN, dk.b./br.f., 2023, Complexity—Wide Open, by Flat Out. B-Mark Allen Sell & Maurice Casey III; O-DARRS Inc.; T-Brittany Russell. $75,000 John McKee Memorial S, Charles Town, Sept. 19.

GURNEY HALLECK, gr./ro.c., 2023, Practical Joke—Fiona Bella, by Fiber Sonde. B-O'Sullivan Farms & Javier Contreras; O-David Raim; T-Jeff Runco. $75,000 Henry Mercer Memorial S, Charles Town, Sept. 20.

Milestones

Hired

As the New York Racing Association stakes coordinator, former Penn National Race Course director of racing and sportsbook Eric Johnston. Johnston will oversee the execution and operations required to administer the 230 stakes races offered annually on the NYRA circuit. He succeeds Andrew Byrnes, who held the position since 1999 and retired at the conclusion of the summer meet at Saratoga Race Course. Johnston started Oct. 3. "NYRA is pleased to welcome Eric Johnston to the talented and experienced group of professionals currently in place within the racing office," said Andrew Offerman, NYRA senior vice president of racing and operations. "He is a talented manager who pairs decades of experience with detailed knowledge of the racing and wagering landscape nationally." Prior to his leadership role at Penn National, Johnston, a native of Grantville, Pa., was a racing official in Maryland and worked in a variety of roles at Sam Houston Park and Fort Erie Race Course.

Named

As the new director of racing and sportsbook at Penn National Race Course, former director of racing at The Meadows Scott Lishia, pending customary regulatory approvals. A native of Somerset County, Pa., Lishia and his family have been involved in racing for more than 60 years, and he has worked as a racing official at numerous tracks over the past 30 years in Florida, New Jersey and Massachusetts. For more than 12 years Lishia worked for the Maryland Jockey Club in

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The Mill

Milestones

several senior management positions, and most recently he directed The Meadows year-round harness racing operations since 2021. "My family and I want to thank the management at Penn Entertainment and Hollywood Casino at Penn National for this incredible opportunity. Although I will deeply miss The Meadows and the people there, I look forward to working with the horsemen/women as well as the staff at Penn National to build on the solid foundation that Eric Johnston and his team have created, and hopefully make a positive impact." Lishia said.

COURTESY OF SPENDTHRIFT FARM

Moved

To Virginia's Mt. Airy Farm for the 2026 season, former Spendthrift Farm stallion Cross Traffic, in a deal announced by West Virginia's O'Sullivan Farms in October. A son of Unbridled's Song, Cross Traffic sired 2018 champion 2-year-old filly Jaywalk in his first crop and has also produced major winners NY Traffic, Neecie Marie, Here Mi Song, Defining Purpose and Maple Leaf Mel. Cross Traffic led all first-crop sires in 2018. As a racehorse, he won the Grade 1 Whitney Handicap and finished second in the Metropolitan Handicap-G1 in 2013 for trainer Todd Pletcher. Out of the Grade 1-winning Cure the Blues mare Stop Traffic, the gray will stand for a $4,000 fee with lifetime breeding rights available. "Cross Traffic brings proven class, a strong pedigree, and a record of producing sound, competitive runners," said John Funkhouser of O'Sullivan Farms in a press release. "Virginia hasn't seen a stallion of his caliber in decades. With the encouraging developments in Virginia racing and breeding recently, I'm excited to revitalize Virginia's stallion program and provide regional breeders access to a proven, elite-level sire."

Released

Key findings from two pilot programs commissioned in August 2024 by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority's Exercise-Associated Sudden Death Working Group. During the first six months of 2025, EASD accounted for approximately 8 percent of racing fatalities and 18 percent of training fatalities at racetracks subject to HISA rules (and training centers owned by them). Analysis of cases since HISA's inception shows that more than 50 percent of cases were likely related to cardiac issues, often classified as sudden cardiac death. The majority of these events occurred early in horses' careers, with the highest incidence occurring in horses with zero to five starts in their careers. Through advanced cardiac monitoring via wearable devices, researchers identified that atrial fibrillation – traditionally considered a benign, performance-limiting condition – can worsen during exercise, causing a more severe arrhythmia that leads to sudden death. Electrocardiogram

Milestones

data from affected horses showed AF both at rest and under exertion, underscoring the need for early detection and highlighting the potential of integrating routine cardiac screening into pre-training and pre-race evaluations. "Integrating cardiac screening into routine evaluations – whether through wearable devices or veterinary exams – could allow trainers and veterinarians to identify at-risk horses before exercise," said Dr. Karen Hassan, HISA's Compliance and Research Veterinarian and chair of HISA's EASD Working Group. "This opens the door to scalable monitoring protocols and standardized response strategies that could save equine lives." The next phase of the program will focus on scalability and the development of real-time cardiac monitoring protocols and risk-based screening criteria. Specifically, AF could be detected either via wearable devices, handheld ECG devices or auscultation by a veterinarian before exercise, allowing trainers to withhold exercise and work with their veterinary team to evaluate affected horses further. To further educate stakeholders, a series of educational webinars will be held for horsemen and veterinarians.

Hired

To the new position of assistant racing secretary at the National Steeplechase Association, former trainer, assistant trainer, steeplechase jockey and regional manager of The Jockey's Guild, Keith O'Brien. He will come on board full-time in early November. O'Brien, 57, rode on the NSA circuit for five seasons (1991-96). He grew up in racing and most recently served

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as a regional manager for The Jockey's Guild in New York. He will be relocate from his Long Island, N.Y., home to Fair Hill, Md., the NSA's headquarters, to accommodate his post. In his capacity with The Guild, O'Brien was a liaison between riders, racetrack management and horsemen, facilitating communication among the various groups; he was also responsible for ensuring that best safety practices were followed. Prior to that position, O'Brien was a trainer, working with his father, Leo and taking over the barn when the elder O'Brien retired. An Irish native, Leo O'Brien came to the United States in 1964 and rode for five seasons before becoming one of New York's leading trainers. Among his standouts were Fourstardave, who won at Saratoga Race course for eight consecutive years; Fourstars Allstar, who crossed the Atlantic in 1991 to win the fabled Irish 2,000 Guineas and in 1993 ran third in the Breeder's Cup Mile-G1; New York-bred graded stakes winner Irish Linnet; and Yanks Music, champion 3-year-old filly of 1996. "Beyond his connection to the sport, Keith brings a unique combination of skills to the position," said NSA director of racing Bill Gallo. "He is soft spoken, with a calm demeanor that is necessary in this role, and has a fundamental passion and understanding of racing that is imperative to the growth and future success of the sport. As an accredited steward, he will also bring balance and strength to the

TOD MARKS

regulatory side of the association. I look forward to Keith joining the team and feel certain that he will advance quickly in this position." In early October, O'Brien was looking forward to joining the staff. "It represents a full-circle moment for me," he said. "Steeplechase racing has always been present in my life and the opportunity to become an integral part of the regulatory team for the National Steeplechase Association is a great honor. I look forward to working in all facets of the game. I am committed to the continued growth and prosperity of steeplechasing and I intend to devote myself fully to the tasks required."

Awarded

Grants to nine organizations, the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation, in an announcement made in August. With the mission to support Thoroughbred health and welfare, TERF provides scholarships to students pursuing veterinary careers, educates racing stakeholders impacting the Thoroughbred industry, and supports equine research with a priority to making racing safer. The board of directors of TERF selected this year's recipients in a competitive process, with those selected reflecting TERF's focus and vision. Education and scholarship funding from TERF included: $5,000 to Amplify Horse Racing, $15,000 to Belmont Child Care Association, $10,000 to Maryland Horse Foundation, $5,000 to MidAtlantic Horse Rescue, $7,100 to National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, $7,500 to Retired Racehorse Project, $4,000 to Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, $5,000 to Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, and $6,000 to Wilson College. The grants reflect the values set forth by founders and Mid-Atlantic owners/breeders Herb and Ellen Moelis. The current TERF board includes co-chairs Kathleen Anderson DVM and James Orsini DVM, Lynne Cassimeris Ph.D., Margaret Duprey, Roy Jackson, Katelyn Jackson, Ellen Moelis, Cory Moelis, Wendy Moon, Anita Motion, Scott Palmer VMD, Will Phipps and Josh Pons. For more, see terfusa.org.

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Battle Aray

SHAWN MCMILLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Lauren van Dam vividly remembers starting her job as a groom/exercise rider for steeplechase trainer Billy Meister. It was 2015, she was 15 years old, and one of the first horses she met was Battle Aray.

"The guys working there told me, 'Don't take that horse out of his stall – he's crazy,' " she said. "They said to make sure one of them led him because he was quite a handful. Obviously, that just made me fall in love with him."

A few weeks after that, she started riding him.

"He was always difficult to ride but never strong. He likes to play around, buck and carry on, stuff like that. I worked for Billy for over four years, and when I was 19 I had to move on to a different job and had to say goodbye to Battle and the other horses I also enjoyed."

Foaled in Kentucky on March 23, 2008, Battle Aray lost seven starts on the flat for breeder Two Hearts Farm. Nearly two years after finishing sixth in a $16,000 maiden claimer at Ellis Park in July 2012, he made his timber debut for Meister and owner Merriefield Farm on the Grand National undercard in April 2014.

The son of Breeders' Cup Turf-G1 winner Johar ran nine times over eight years, sidelined three times by tendon issues. He did not start at all in 2015, ran twice in 2016 – scoring his only win in a maiden at Genesee Valley (over eventual Maryland Hunt Cup winner Derwins Prospector) – and once in 2017. Meister became the owner of record in 2019.

"Billy really wanted him to be a Maryland Hunt Cup horse, and he did run in it in 2019," van Dam said. "He actually ran pretty well, but jumped one of the jumps a little hard and the jockey fell off. But Battle continued to run until the 15th fence, head and head with [winner] Senior Senator without a rider. He's just a phenomenal jumper."

After another break in 2020 and 2021, Battle Aray made one final start in an allowance on the 2022 Grand National

undercard – ending his career over fences exactly where it began eight years previously. He was pulled up by jockey Virginia Korrell. Meister retired the 14-year-old gelding and turned him out again to rest the tendon.

Van Dam always made it known that she was interested in the horse when his career ended. She credits another former Meister employee, Ashley Randall, for convincing him to send Battle Aray to her.

"I think Billy would have liked to keep him, because he hunted him a good bit," van Dam said. "But I do think Ashley put the idea in his head and was a big factor in him sending Battle to me."

Van Dam was well equipped to take on Battle Aray's retraining. Growing up in Monkton, Md., she helped at nearby J-Mar Stables, performing whatever chores necessary to earn lessons. It was a valuable education, and she enjoyed every minute. She became a working student for J-Mar's Jennifer Marshall and subsequently Rachel Lively which led to the opportunity in Meister's barn.

In August 2023, van Dam drove to Meister's farm and picked Battle up out of the field.

"His mane was long and he was in rough shape just from being turned out for so long," she said. "But he was perfectly sound. I basically started from scratch. One on getting him fit and ridden after a whole year off, and two just rewiring his brain to go back to work at a different job. I had not been on him for nearly four years at that point."

Many considered Battle Aray not only quirky, but downright difficult. Van Dam's patience and trust prevailed, even if the horse was initially an explosive bundle of nerves, cantering sideways or in place. It took her months to get where he would walk, trot and canter calmly around the arena without blowing his mind. Fully understanding his behaviors, van Dam persisted.

"One day it all kind of clicked," she said. "He still has his moments, but I can finally flat him around the ring and he's pleasant to ride. But it was definitely a lot of trying to figure out what kind of tack he liked, what kind of ride he wanted me to give him."

Nothing about the gelding was malicious. He and van Dam simply needed time to understand each other.

Once those tumblers fell into place, results came quickly. Van Dam showed Battle Aray in some local jumper shows in the 1-meter division with great results. Early in 2025, she fulfilled a lifelong dream to show in Florida. Heading south for two weeks, they competed in the Venice Equestrian Tour series.

"I took him down there and he ended up winning one of the 1-meter jumper stakes over 20 horses," van Dam said. "To do that on a Thoroughbred makes it so much more special. They are still the minority; they used to be common, everyone rode a Thoroughbred. Now everyone has Warmbloods. And Warmbloods are trained for that career as soon as they're broken, unlike a horse like Battle that has known a different career for so long."

They celebrated a watershed moment at the end of August at the 82nd annual Ludwig's Corner Horse Show in Pennsylvania – competing in their first mini prix.

"It was 1.25 meters (4-foot-1) and I had never shown that high and neither had he," van Dam said. "He ended up doing so much better than I could have ever asked. We just about went double clear, except we had the last rail at the last jump in the jump-off. Those are sizable jumps. Going up to a combination with an oxer that is over 4 feet is quite intimidating. But he took it all in stride and was so game for it. I think he had a blast."

Now 17, Battle Aray is a gleaming bay rocket of a jumper with spectacular form over fences. He and van Dam are an elegant, eye-catching partnership.

Van Dam boards the horse at Harford Hill in Monkton, just across from the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club. She sees Battle Aray every day. She and her twin sister, Zabelle, also own another former Meister trainee.

They noticed a photo on the Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue website, checked the roster of available horses, and confirmed that it was indeed Zen Pi, a now 8-year-old Great Notion gelding bred by Meister and Julie Arbogast. They wasted no time filing an adoption application, and the horse came home to Monkton with them in 2023. A few months after his arrival, an accident while turned out in the field necessitated emergency surgery and an eight-day stay at New Bolton Center.

"His prognosis was that he would be pasture sound – hopefully. My sister and I did everything for him because we just adore him," said Lauren. "We knew when we got him that we had no goals for him, we just wanted him to have a long, happy life, so we did an expensive rehab on him, and we are now able to ride him again."

Battle Aray and Zen Pi, incidentally, are "soul mates and best friends" according to van Dam.

"I've tried to share Battle's story as much as I can, because there is this idea that people don't look after Thoroughbreds after their racing careers," she said. "And also just the idea that Thoroughbreds can't hold up and they are not durable. But here Battle is, doing his first mini prix at 17. And we're not slowing down – we're moving up." ■

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Rooney's impact will stick with Steele, region

Imagine the owner of a National Football League franchise also owning a Thoroughbred breeding farm in the Mid-Atlantic.

Yeah, seems far-fetched. People who own NFL teams don't bother with mares, foals, stallions, sales yearlings, layups, raising crops to support them and all the other details of a working horse farm that's not also a showplace. And those same people certainly don't – when they visit the farm – stay with the farm manager's family, sneak homemade cookies or take walks around the place while chomping on a cigar.

But one did. Art Rooney, founding owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, also owned Maryland's Shamrock Farm. Rooney wasn't hands-on with the farm details, but he probably could have been given all the other pursuits in his life. He played basketball, football and baseball in college, won an Amateur Athletic Union welterweight boxing championship in 1918 and tried out for the 1920 Olympic team. He played minor-league baseball and was a halfback on a semi-pro football team in Pittsburgh. In 1933, he paid $2,500 to start a hometown franchise in the NFL, which – eventually – became the Steelers (winners of six Super Bowls and still owned by the Rooney family).

In addition to football, Rooney was a racing fan who used the winnings from a big bet at Saratoga Race Course to help fund the Steelers' early years. Rooney later bred and owned Thoroughbred and Standardbred horses. He owned the Yonkers Raceway harness track, Green Mountain Thoroughbred track in Vermont, the Palm Beach Kennel Club Greyhound track in Florida and Liberty Bell and Keystone racetracks near Philadelphia.

Founded by Rooney in 1948, Shamrock was part-business venture, part-getaway – and all Rooney. The Woodbine farm raised Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds, ran cattle, grew crops and muscled its way into a crowded pool of state Thoroughbred operations. When Rooney's star racehorse Christopher R. retired to stud, he stood one season at Glade Valley Farm before moving to Shamrock in 1978 under the management of new hire Jim Steele.

Steele stayed for nearly 50 years and got more than a job. He and his wife Christie raised five sons at Shamrock. Rooney, who died at age 87 in 1988, became a combination boss, mentor and friend.

Shamrock stayed busy, and relevant, under Rooney's sons and grandchildren but closed this year and was sold to the state as the potential home for a new training center. Steele can't help but think of the horses, the people who came through and the moments along the way

"Art Rooney was not fancy, was not anything you'd think," Steele said. "He was a self-made man. He knew important people (former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill visited Shamrock), but he didn't put on airs."

Steele won't forget the trips to New York City, Pittsburgh, Miami for the Super Bowl, Pimlico Race Course, a raucous Colts-Steelers game at Memorial Stadium and on and on. All typically involved what Steele thought were going to be swanky moments, but instead turned into far-more-valuable times.

Rooney in New York: "Let's go to lunch."

Steele: "I remember thinking this is going to be some big-time lunch."

They walked to the corner drug store and sat in a booth.

Rooney: "I want you to come to a game in Pittsburgh. You can come to dinner afterward so we can talk."

Steele: "Dinner, the night after a game? In Pittsburgh? This is going to be a real dinner out. I better be ready."

Steele parked his car at the Rooneys' house, walked to Three Rivers Stadium for the early-afternoon game, walked back afterward. At the house, Rooney was watching the 4 o'clock NFL game on television. "Do you like steak?" he asked his farm manager. Steele said yes and they ate steaks, prepared by Rooney's wife Kathleen, in the kitchen during halftime of the game. Then they watched the second half together.

Dinner in Maryland was at an Italian spot on Route 40. Rooney would send the owner, who would carry the Steeles' children around the place, footballs to display. When they went racing, Rooney would park at the old Pimlico Hotel, have lunch and walk to the races. Afterward, they'd walk back and have dinner. By that time, the traffic was cleared, and they could drive back to Shamrock with no delays.

"He loved the racing," Steele said. "When I'd go with him to the track, the guys would know him. He'd ask the guys if they had any tips. He was always getting tips. Back when he was making a lot of money gambling, he couldn't go up to the window because people would follow him and know who he was betting. He would send runners, and he'd always wait until the last minute. And he didn't bet every race. He'd wait and bet when he thought the odds were right on a horse he liked."

On a trip to a Super Bowl, Rooney and Steele went racing at Gulfstream Park and – as expected – the box was a busy stopping point for people who wanted a few minutes with Rooney. Howard Cosell came by to talk. Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder was there. Rooney just wanted a day at the track.

"He couldn't handicap horses because people kept walking by and wanting to talk to him," Steele said. "He was trying to handicap. I was 27 years old, green behind the ears. I did not appreciate what I had."

No one did. ■

Standing TALL

SMALLER CATALOG LEADS TO BIGGER RETURNS AT FALL YEARLING SALE

Consignor Becky Davis topped the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale for the third consecutive year with a Maryland-bred Nyquist colt.

By Joe Clancy ■ *Fasig-Tipton Photos*

Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale of 2025 finished with a sales-topper, a leading consignor, a leading buyer and all the other statistics, news and results of a Thoroughbred auction. This one also came with a question.

How much smaller can it get? Hopefully, for the health of the regional sales market, not much.

Reduced to fewer than 200 horses, the Sept. 30 sale at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium made its case by posting a $30,920 average – an increase of 30 percent over 2024; gross receipts reached $4,978,100 – a boost of 16 percent despite 54 fewer horses offered.

"Obviously, the results are very strong today," said Fasig-Tipton's Boyd Browning afterward. "I think it demonstrates that there's a viable and legitimate market here in the Mid-Atlantic region for people to bring a quality horse to. I thought we had more buyers here than we had horses in terms of there was more money here than we had horses that could fill those orders. A lot of people went home without buying a horse."

And if that's the case, perhaps a shrinking catalog reverses – a little – in 2026. Fasig-Tipton will do its part, though any recruiting effort will have to contend with smaller foal crops in regional states and other opportunities at the company's October sale in Kentucky (1,601 horses in the catalog this year) and Keeneland September (which sold 3,078). Sellers try to follow the marketplace and Timonium's has contracted from catalogs of more than 500 in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Gross receipts topped $10 million in 2021 and 2022. The 2023 catalog dropped to 412 horses and a $7 million gross. Last year's sale dipped again, to 284 in the book and a gross of $4.2 million.

All that decline sent at least some sellers to other markets, and gave Fasig-Tipton some pause in advance of the sale.

"You always have a little trepidation when you come into a regional market of how it's going to translate because we know this region is in some transition," Browning said. "But I think the nice thing is that there were a lot of positives to take out of the sale, and hopefully it's something that we can build upon moving forward and give people some confidence to breed a horse and to bring a quality horse here to sell next year and beyond."

Like any horse sale, this one required plenty of work from its participants, but consignors who stayed the course got rewarded.

"I thought it was a great market, buying horses and selling horses," said Chris Gracie, whose Gracie Bloodstock showed up on both sides of the ledger with 16 horses sold and one purchased. "Obviously, there was a demand for horses."

Gracie sold a Corniche filly for Virginia breeders Jimmy and Emily Day for $100,000 and had seven others reach $25,000 or more. The Virginia-based consignor sees upside to the regional yearling market, and plans to stay active.

"I was disappointed I didn't bring a couple nice horses there," he said. "I sold a couple Virginia-breds at Keeneland, and I probably got penalized a little bit. I'll be thinking about bringing some of the nicer horses next year. I don't think the sale's going to get any smaller. The people selling those horses are pretty accurate about when they need to sell and what sales they need to be in. Some can sell earlier, some need more time. It was a lot more competitive this year because you saw end-users willing to spend more money which made the pinhookers spend more money."

Like Gracie, consignor Becky Davis appreciated the demand for horses. She sold the sales-topper for the third consecutive year (and for the sixth time in the last 10), getting $370,000 for a Maryland-bred Nyquist colt and putting nine others in the $25,000 and above category.

"I think it will draw some attention for people to either come back next year, or Kentucky people to look at the sale," Davis said. "I think we just proved a lot of people wrong. Nothing against Keeneland but if you're here, if you live here and your horse is here, there's no reason to go to Kentucky. A nice horse can sell well here."

Davis knows that smaller foal crops put pressure on regional markets, but also knows there is something to be said for Timonium's manageable catalog and footprint.

"The foal crop dropping nationally is scary, the foal crop dropping in Maryland is even more scary, to me," she said.

SALES LEADERS

Colts

$370,000. Dk.b./br.c. Nyquist—Lookin Dynamic, by Lookin At Lucky (Md.); Becky Davis agt.; Scanlon Training and Sales.

$100,000. B.c. Tiz the Law—Golden Delicious, by Harlan's Holiday (Ky.); Marshall Silverman agt.; Sackatoga Stable, Robin Smullen agt.

$90,000. Dk.b./br.c. Raging Bull (Fr)—Go Big Blue Nation, by Animal Kingdom (Va.); Becky Davis agt.; Aspire Equine.

$80,000. B.c. Practical Joke—Itgetsgreaterlater, by Justify (Md.); Wasabi Venture Sales agt.; Toby Stables.

$80,000. Dk.b./br.c. Vekoma—Applaud, by Medaglia d'Oro (Md.); The Stables At Mezza Luna, Chanceland Farm agt.; Cash Is King and LC Racing.

$80,000. B.c. City of Light—Majestic Reason, by Majestic Warrior (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade) agt.; Lucky Quarter Bloodstock.

$75,000. Dk.b./br.c. Maxfield—Victory Rally, by Jump Start (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade) agt.; Hillwood Stables, Cary Frommer agt.

Fillies

$210,000. Dk.b./br.f. Army Mule—Hello Now, by Tiznow (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade) agt.; LC Racing.

$200,000. B.f. Corniche—Logic of Absurdity, by Bodemeister (Md.); Northview Stallion Station (David Wade) agt.; Robert Lambe.

$190,000. Dk.b./br.f. Upstart—Crabcakes, by Great Notion (Va.); Morgan's Ford Farm; Tom McCrocklin agt.

$140,000. Ch.f. Vekoma—Lunar Rille, by English Channel (Md.); Country Life Farm and Partners, Bill Reightler agt.; Bray Bloodstock.

$100,000. B.f. Corniche—Callipepla, by Yes It's True (Va.); Gracie Bloodstock agt.; Robert Lambe.

$80,000. B.f. Speaker's Corner—Gratz Park, by Upstart (Ky.); Jim Conkling, Deb Ferguson agt.; Grassroots Training and Sales.

$75,000. Ch.f. Friesan Fire—Just Say Goodbye, by Not For Love (Md.); Thornmar, Northview Stallion Station (David Wade) agt.; Cash Is King and LC Racing.

$75,000. B.f. Great Notion—Bawlmer Hon, by Silver Train (Md.); Becky Davis agt.; HNR Nothhaft Horse Racing.

$73,000. Dk.b./br.f. Great Notion—Talkin Smack, by Not For Love (Md.); Becky Davis agt.; Cary Frommer.

$70,000. Ch.f. Munnings—Ginger Tap, by Tapit (Ky.); Straight Line Equine Sales agt. II; Ringside.

$70,000. B.f. Nashville—Ellanation, by Alternation (Md.); Dark Hollow Farm agt.; Grassroots Training and Sales.

"It makes it difficult for the regional market, but I could see it being a cycle. This sale got small, then it got to almost 600 horses because the Kentucky horses came. I've been worried and concerned, but seeing what happened this year I wouldn't be surprised if it does kind of turn around.

"Maybe it'll continue to be smaller, more of a boutique sale, but that's OK. That was always a little bit of an appeal to Maryland anyway."

Northview Stallion Station led all consignors by selling 43 horses for $1,242,500. A $200,000 Corniche filly got things started as Hip 17 and a $210,000 Army Mule filly all but wrapped things up as Hip 202. Both were Maryland-breds, like all but three of the yearlings the farm sold. With 24 percent of the catalog fueled by large groups from Sycamore Hall Farm and Thornmar farm, Northview was busy even if the sale was smaller.

"The number of Maryland-breds we're getting every year is decreasing and this sale is fed mostly by Maryland-breds," said Wade. "We're not getting the Kentucky consignors we got in the past, which is different, but with mostly regional consignors and a lot of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virgina horses we did pretty well."

Fasig-Tipton did away with its December mixed sale at Timonium because the numbers weren't there, and because the new digital sales concept serves that market well. Yearlings are different, but quantity matters.

"If it gets too small, the sale will become obsolete like the December sale has," said Wade. "You're not going to draw buyers. Hopefully some consignors that used to come are going to look at it and say, 'If we take a nice horse there, we'll do well.' The top prices always look like they sold really well, but it's the others that make a sale and we've done better at this sale with certain horses than we would have done down in Kentucky or Saratoga."

Like Gracie and some others, Bill Reightler saw both sides of the sale as a consignor (19 sold for $412,700) and a buyer (one purchased for $50,000). A longtime advocate for the sale, he stressed its importance to the region.

"It's a great place to sell a horse, and to buy a horse," he said. "The Timonium yearling sale has never let me down selling a good horse by a national sire. It works every time. Becky Davis keeps doing it. Country Life Farm had a Vekoma that sold very well. We have to promote how good of a market it is."

Reightler said he showed his 25-horse consignment 500 times the day before the sale, a sign of demand and the willingness of buyers to do their due diligence.

"A sale is not good or bad, it's what's in the sale," Reightler said. "All of us in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic, we have to keep promoting our sale and bringing good stock to the sale. If you don't support the market, the sales company is going to have to take a hard look at it and ask if they should continue."

Starting Fast

In 2024, Florida pinhooker Dave Scanlon waited through most of the sale to purchase Hip 206 – a Nyquist colt from the Davis consignment. The $150,000 Maryland-bred from breeder Bowman and Higgins Stable turned into a $1 million 2-year-old score the following March.

This year, Scanlon went to work early – going to $370,000 to get Hip 18, another Nyquist colt from Davis. Bred by

Bowman and Higgins, Larry Johnson and trainer Mike Trombetta's RDM Racing Stable, the colt was the sale's most expensive purchase since 2016.

Scanlon makes no secret of his Timonium plan.

"We come up here with the same plan every year," he said. "If there's a really good colt here, we hope to sneak him out of here. But obviously, we looked around and we didn't sneak him past anybody. I didn't think they were going to let us get away with it two years in a row. It was a little bit more than I was hoping to pay, but I knew I was going to have to pay for him."

The colt represents Maryland racing excellence via a female family cultivated by Robert Meyerhoff, who purchased third-dam Dynamic Star at Keeneland's November sale in 1988. In foal to Deputy Minister, she produced Grade 2 winner Star Minister in 1989 and a string of other success stories including Grade 2 winner Stellar Brush. Dynamic Star's final foal, the 2002 filly Dynamic Deputy, by Deputy Minister, won a stakes, placed in the Delaware Handicap-G2 and produced nine winners led by stakes winners Another Broad and Dynamic Strike.

In 2020, Meyerhoff wound down his breeding/racing operation with assistance from his trainer Trombetta, Davis' father Dr. Tom Bowman and others. On March 8, Dynamic Deputy's daughter Lookin Dynamic won a $50,000 claimer at Laurel Park. She was the last horse to start for Meyerhoff, the end of an era that included decades of success fueled by the likes of multiple Grade 1 winner and influential sire Broad Brush, Breeder' Cup Classic-G1 winner Concern, Grade 1 winners Valley Crossing and Include and others with trainers Dickie Small and Bud Delp and later Trombetta.

> "If there's a really good colt here, we hope to sneak him out of here. But obviously, we looked around and we didn't sneak him past anybody."
>
> *– Buyer Dave Scanlon*

Sold to Johnson and Trombetta, Lookin Dynamic started 15 more times over the next two years, winning twice and placing in two stakes before embarking on a broodmare career for Bowman and Milton Higgins III, Johnson and Trombetta.

Bred to Nyquist in 2023, a mating picked out by Higgins who died that spring, the daughter of Lookin At Lucky produced a dark bay colt in April 2024. Seventeen months later, he hit a home run at Timonium.

By the traffic around her barn, Davis expected him to sell well. How well was anybody's guess. She set the reserve, more of a "bid-starter" in her words, at $100,000, weathered some anxiety when Hip 17 went for $200,000 and then watched

THE NUMBERS

TWO-YEAR FIGURES

	2025	2024
Offered	197	251
Sold	161	180
Not Sold	18.3%	28.3%
Gross	$4,978,100	$4,287,700
Average	$30,920	$23,821
Median	$20,000	$15,000

LEADING BUYERS

Scanlon Training & Sales (1)	$370,000
Robert Lambe (3)	325,000
LC Racing (4)	307,000
Grassroots Training and Sales (5)	231,000
Cash Is King and LC Racing (3)	192,000
Tom McCrocklin, agt. (1)	190,000
Super C Racing (7)	161,000
Gary Capuano, agt. (4)	146,000
Bray Bloodstock (1)	140,000
Cary Frommer (2)	123,000

LEADING SIRES

Gross Sales

Great Notion (10)	$372,000
Nyquist (1)	370,000
Corniche (2)	300,000
Frosted (8)	262,000
Army Mule (3)	252,000
Vekoma (2)	220,000
Blofeld (9)	215,000
Upstart (1)	190,000
Practical Joke (3)	151,000
Tiz the Law (3)	145,000

Average Sales (3 or more sold)

Army Mule (3)	$84,000
Practical Joke (3)	50,333
Tiz the Law (3)	48,333
Independence Hall (3)	47,000
Great Notion (10)	37,200
Frosted (8)	32,750
Goldencents (3)	29,000
Tacitus (3)	27,000
Blofeld (9)	23,889
Drain the Clock (3)	16,667

LEADING CONSIGNORS

Gross Sales

Northview Stallion Station (43)	$1,242,500
Becky Davis (12)	887,000
Gracie Bloodstock (16)	464,000
Marshall Silverman (14)	440,500
Bill Reightler (19)	412,700
Chanceland Farm (10)	341,500
Dark Hollow Farm (8)	232,000
Morgan's Ford Farm (2)	192,500
Deb Ferguson (5)	181,000
Wynoaks Farm (9)	140,500

Average (3 or more sold)

Becky Davis (12)	$73,917
Straight Line Equine Sales (3)	42,333
Wasabi Venture Sales (3)	38,333
Deb Ferguson (5)	36,200
Chanceland Farm (10)	34,150
Marshall Silverman (14)	31,464
Gracie Bloodstock (16)	29,000
Dark Hollow Farm (8)	29,000
Northview Stallion Station (43)	28,895
Bill Reightler (19)	21,721

everything soar. She sold a $450,000 Curlin colt for Higgins at the sale in 2016 and thought for a minute this one might be a rival. Nobody's complaining about $370,000.

"I'm tremendously pleased," Davis said. "He's got so much growing and developing to do. There's going to be a big horse there. He has a nice, lanky frame. I wasn't sure that he was going to be the physical people really wanted, but he's easy on himself, really has a good brain. It's going to be fun to see what he becomes."

That will be up to Scanlon.

Now named Epic Quest, the Nyquist colt Scanlon purchased in 2024, bred by Bowman and Higgins, finished second in his debut for Todd Pletcher at Saratoga Sept. 1 and was breezing toward another start in early October. This year's purchase will head to Florida for some turnout time, start doing the basics, then be aimed for a sale in the spring. Scanlon looked at him based on the sire, but there's more to it.

"Nyquist is obviously the number one factor, but then he had great scope; he was a good walker – athletic, handled himself really well here at the sale," Scanlon said. "I love how those horses are raised the right way. When I get them home, like the colt last year, they just train up really nice. I could literally watch that horse last year change before my eyes, so it's nice to get another one from them."

Northview Nation

While Davis sold the sales-topper, nobody was going to challenge Northview as the overall leading consignor. The Chesapeake City, Md., farm rang up $1,242,500 in receipts from 43 sold from 48 offered.

Eleven in the consignment were bred by Sycamore Hall Farm, the private entity of Northview owners Michael Golden and Lisa Hofstetter. Breeder Thornmar sent 15. Wade divided the consignment into separate shedrows of colts and fillies to facilitate showings by a staff that included 25 show people and six people handling cards.

The strategy, and the horses, paid off as two fillies reached $200,000 and a dozen others went for $25,000 or more. Trainer Butch Reid, bidding for LC Racing, won a long duel with Golden – standing next to trainer Brittany Russell – for Hip 202 at $210,000. Bred by Sycamore Hall in partnership with Holly House Farm, which owns dam Hello Now, the Maryland-bred daughter of Army Mule is a half-sister to the Russell-trained stakes winners Hello Beautiful and Hello Hot Rod.

"We liked that yearling all along and thought it would be a good one to train," said Wade. "We wanted to see it get into Brittany's hands. We got outbid, but he got into good hands."

Hours earlier, pinhooker Robert Lambe spent $200,000 to buy Hip 17, a Corniche filly, from Northview. Breeder Owen Kiernan bought the filly's dam, the Bodemeister mare Logic of Absurdity, for $30,000 while carrying the filly at Keeneland November in 2023.

Beyond the six-figure purchases, Northview's consignment went deep with a City of Light colt out of Majestic Reason reaching $80,000 on a bid by Lucky Quarter Bloodstock. Two Maryland-breds went for $75,000 – a Friesan Fire filly (to Cash is King and LC Racing) and a Maxfield colt (to Hillwood Stables via agent Cary Frommer).

Wade called the Maxfield a "really good buy," and also pointed to Lizzie Merryman's $22,000 purchase of an Army Mule filly out of a full-sister to stakes horses Coastal Mission and Lewisfield late as a potential bargain.

As for the future, Northview isn't going anywhere. Wade said he would be in Kentucky this fall and winter shopping for broodmares to upgrade Sycamore Hall's program. And the Timonium sale will be part of the plan.

"You have to adapt to what the market's doing," he said, "and that's what we're trying to do. "We've done better at this sale with certain horses than we would have done down in Kentucky."

Bouncing Around

■ Lambe bought a second filly by 2021 Eclipse Award-winning 2-year-old Corniche, Hip 146, from the Gracie consignment. Bred in Virginia by Jimmy and Emily Day, she

STATISTICS BY SEX

	Colts	*Fillies*	*Geldings*
Sold	79	80	2
Gross	$2,444,500	$2,516,600	$17,000
Average	$30,943	$31,458	$8,500
Median	$20,000	$19,500	$8,500

TWO-YEAR BID DISTRIBUTION FIGURES

		2025		2024	
	bid	*no. sold*	*total amount*	*no. sold*	*total amount*
≥	$100,000	7	1,310,000	6	$ 775,000
≥	75,000	8	635,000	5	399,000
≥	50,000	11	661,000	11	669,000
≥	25,000	42	1,407,000	43	1,442,000
≥	10,000	48	728,500	50	772,500
≥	5,000	26	176,600	22	143,500
others		19	60,000	43	86,700

LOUISE E. REINAGEL

Leading consignor Northview Stallion Station sold the top filly, a daughter of Army Mule and Hello Now for $210,000.

is a half-sister to three winners from the Yes It's True mare Callipepla and the family of Barbaro. Corniche's first crop averaged $105,235 as weanlings last year and have jumped to $179,040 as yearlings in 2025.

"People noticed them as weanlings and they were really athletic and as yearlings they got a really nice shape to them," said Gracie. "We've had good luck selling out of that mare, but we were a little under the average because of pedigree. She was correct, square, by a good stallion, I knew we were in a good spot."

■ Maryland stallion Great Notion continues to make an impact, as 10 members of his 19th crop sold for an average of $37,200. The group included a $75,000 filly out of stakes winner and stakes producer Bawlmer Hon to trainer Phil Schoenthal on behalf of HnR Nothhaft Horse Racing and a $73,000 filly out of stakes producer Talkin Smack to Cary Frommer. Both fillies were part of the Davis consignment. A third Great Notion yearling, a Thornmar-bred filly out of graded-stakes producer Casual Kiss, did not meet her reserve at $70,000.

■ Star Maryland-bred mare Crabcakes, a daughter of Great Notion and a two-time Maryland Million winner, was represented by the sale's fourth-highest price in her $190,000 filly by Upstart. Sold by breeder Morgan's Ford Farm, the dark bay Virginia-bred went to Tom McCrocklin as a potential 2-year-old pinhook next year.

Morgan's Ford owners Wayne and Susie Chatfield-Taylor loved the return, but were – as usual – a little sad to see a horse leave the fold.

"We don't do enough of this so that we don't care," said Wayne. "She's a good Virginia horse; she's going to be a nice filly for somebody. I hope she comes back to race here, and we get to cheer her on. She was impeccable, a wonderful mind, competitive, doesn't take anything off anybody. There's a lot to like."

The Chatfield-Taylors inherited Crabcakes and other Thoroughbreds owned by longtime friend Binnie Houghton when she died in 2017, and can't help but think of the connection through the horses.

"It's always bittersweet, always has been, we're little guys," said Susie while slipping the browband off the filly's halter in

her stall. "She's been perfect. She doesn't do anything wrong. She got a little tired here, but otherwise she was perfect every day. I think she's Crabcakes' best, so far."

■ Consignor Bill Reightler got $140,000 for a Maryland-bred Vekoma filly bred by Country Life Farm and partners. Country Life bred the filly's second dam Fifteen Moons, who produced six winners. Her daughter Lunar Rille won three races for Country Life.

Reightler paid credit to the sale's timing –and the filly's development – with the solid payday.

"I saw that filly five times, and every time I told them this horse is getting better," he said. "That's the beauty of the Maryland sale. It really helps selling there because of the way young horses mature. Even Keeneland (September) to Maryland, the horses improve a tick. The beauty of it is, you're local, there's less competition with other horses, and if you're by a Kentucky stallion you're in the top 10 percent of the sale already."

■ The lone Kentucky-bred to crack the top six came via consignor Marshall Silverman, who sold the Tiz the Law colt to agent Robin Smullen for Sackatoga Stable, which campaigned the classic-winning stallion. ■

Top: Virginia's Morgan Ford Farm-homebred Upstart filly out of Crabcakes fetched $190,000. Bottom: Chris Gracie sold a six-figure Virginia-bred filly by Corniche.

Ten-year figures for fall yearling sale

Year	Gross	Average	Sold	Buy-back %	Sales topper
2025	$4,978,100	$30,920	161	18.3	$370,000. dk.b./br.c. Nyquist—Lookin Dynamic, by Lookin At Lucky; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Scanlon Training and Sales.
2024	$4,287,700	$23,821	180	28.3	$165,000. Project Maximus, b.f. City of Light—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by LC Racing.
2023	$7,082,000	$24,421	290	21.2	$205,000. Legal Heir, dk.b./br.c., Nyquist—How My Heart Works, by Not For Love; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Thorostock and Seth Morris Thoroughbreds.
2022	$10,266,400	$26,597	386	17.0	$320,000. Mo Fina, dk.b./br.f., Uncle Mo—Andina (Ire), by Singspiel (Ire); consigned by Determined Stud, Scott Mallory, agent; purchased by Legion Bloodstock, agent.
2021	$11,269,400	$29,578	381	16.4	$235,000. Tomodachi, ch.c., Mendelssohn—Grace Is Gone, by Malibu Moon; consigned by Northview Stallion Station (David Wade); purchased by Scanlon Training and Sales.
2020	$9,161,200	$24,172	379	21.7	$270,000. Torpedo Run, ch.c., Gun Runner—Stormy Tak, by Stormy Atlantic; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Lambe Bloodstock.
2019	$7,275,900	$24,253	300	21.2	$190,000. My Oath, b.c., Honor Code—Mrs. Vanderbilt, by Citidancer; consigned by Bill Reightler, agent; purchased by Seagull Capital, Tim Hills, agent.
2018	$7,318,700	$21,653	332	21.8	$210,000. Kiss the Girl, b.f., Into Mischief—Spin the Bottle, by Hard Spun; consigned by CandyLand, agent II; purchased by Three Diamonds Farm.
2017	$7,855,100	$25,177	312	29.1	$300,000. World Affairs, dk.b./br.c., Cairo Prince— Current Event, by Curlin; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Eisaman Equine.
2016	$6,436,600	$24,017	268	17.0	$450,000. First Mondays, ch.c., Curlin—Formalities Aside, by Awesome Again; consigned by Becky Davis, agent; purchased by Charles Zacney.

In 2004, a colt by Silver Deputy sold at this sale for $500,000 to set a record for the most expensive horse sold at public auction in Maryland and remains the most expensive yearling sold. The record price for a horse of any age sold at public auction in Maryland is $3,550,000 for Hejazi, a dark bay colt by Bernardini consigned by Chester and Mary Broman, Sequel Bloodstock, agent, who sold at the 2022 May 2-year-olds in training sale.

LAUREL PARK

NOVEMBER EVENTS / 2025

FIRST RACE 12:10PM

SAT / NOV 8

3 STAKES RACES WITH $300,000 IN PURSES

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE THIRTY EIGHT GO GO STAKES
Fillies & Mares - Three Years Old and Upward
One & One Sixteenth Miles

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE JAMES F. LEWIS III STAKES
Two Year Olds
Six Furlongs

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE SMART HALO STAKES
Fillies - Two Years Old
Six Furlongs

SAT / NOV 22

3 STAKES RACES WITH $300,000 IN PURSES

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE DAVE'S FRIEND STAKES
Three Year Olds & Upward
Six Furlongs

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE RICHARD W. SMALL STAKES
Three Year Olds & Upward
One & One Eighth Miles

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE WILLA ON THE MOVE STAKES
Fillies & Mares - Three Years Old & Upward
Six & One Half Furlongs

SAT / NOV 29

2 STAKES RACES WITH $200,000 IN PURSES

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE CITY OF LAUREL STAKES (LISTED)
Three Year Olds
Seven Furlongs

$100,000 GUARANTEED
THE SAFELY KEPT STAKES
Fillies - Three Years Old
Seven Furlongs

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Virginia-breds make headlines at Keeneland September

By Ali Çetinok

When six Virginia-bred yearlings bred by Larry Johnson stepped into the Keeneland September sales ring in Kentucky under the Betz Thoroughbreds consignment, they carried more than racing potential. They represented the legacy of a man who put his stamp on the Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred industry through decades of work.

He built one of the region's most respected breeding programs while serving as an advocate for racing in Maryland and Virginia until his death in February at 78. His program continues through daughters, Tracy Mulroy and Kelly Caraballo, who have taken up the reins at Legacy Farm in Bluemont, Va.

"It's been a bittersweet year, but an amazing one," said Andrew Motion, a longtime friend and advisor to Johnson and his daughters. "They had a phenomenal meet at Colonial Downs. Larry always liked trying to win the Colonial owners' title. We're sad he's not here to see it, but the September sale was phenomenal."

An Audible filly out of Past as Prelude topped the Larry Johnson-bred offerings at $370,000.

Six Johnson-bred yearlings sold for $1,460,000, topped by a $370,000 Audible filly out of Past as Prelude. The bay is a half-sister to multiple Grade 2 winner Future Is Now, stakes winner Call Another Play and the stakes-placed Continentalcongres. Second dam Magical Meadow produced Grade 3 winner and sire Street Magician. Third dam Special Kell produced six winners. Fourth dam Ran's Chick cost Johnson $2,400 as a 2-year-old in 1978 and, because she bowed a tendon before she ever raced, became his first broodmare.

Bloodstock agent John McCormack made the winning bid at Keeneland, and took home a special filly according to Motion.

"She was a really pretty filly," Motion said. "Larry's incredible curating of this family has been remarkable over the years because all of these bloodlines go back to a mare he bought in 1978."

Jonathan Smart, who manages Legacy Farm, noted how quickly the filly developed.

"She was a little immature early on, but she really came around the last month," he said. "The fun thing is when I sent them to Kentucky at the beginning of August and then I don't see them until the sale. When you look at them every day, you don't notice the changes as much. She really blossomed."

The highlight of the group, despite not commanding the highest price, was a colt from the first crop of Jack Christopher out of Walk of Stars, who went for $350,000 to Mike Repole's Repole Stable. If the combination sounds familiar, it's because Repole campaigns the colt's half-brother Mindframe in partnership with St. Elias Stable. Mindframe cost the owners $600,000 at Keeneland September in 2022. Unraced at 2, he

has since won five times – topped by two Grade 1 scores this year – and earned $1,844,580 (through October) while targeting the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 and a potential divisional championship for trainer Todd Pletcher.

Like Past as Prelude, Walk of Stars traces to Ran's Chick and the family includes 2025 Andy Guest Stakes winner Hollywood Walk and stakes winner Strike the Moon.

"That mare, Walk of Stars, produces foals with a great mind," said Motion. "Mindframe from day one had a brilliant temperament, and this Jack Christopher colt had a similar temperament, takes everything in stride. Mr. Repole liked him so much he came back and bought him too."

A filly by Justify out of stakes winner A Great Time (by Street Magician), sold for $325,000 to agent Gayle Van Leer, while a Constitution filly out of stakes winner Never Enough Time (by Munnings) was purchased for $250,000 by NAJD Stud. A McKinzie half-brother to stakes winner Sky's Not Falling (out of Sky Copper, by Sky Mesa) sold for $125,000, and a Charlatan half-brother to Never Enough Time (out of What Time It Is, by Partner's Hero) was bought post sale by Moonstruck Stables for $40,000.

"That whole sale was probably the strongest group of yearlings Larry's program has sent," Motion said. "They pulled in almost $1.5 million. That's phenomenal for a program Larry started as a blue-collar Mid-Atlantic racing program in the late 1970s and early '80s. Because he kept producing runners and fillies who produced themselves, it's turned into a powerhouse, nationally, not just regionally."

Horses racing under the Estate of Larry Johnson ownership have won 19 races this year, with earnings of $1,418,660 (through Oct. 9) – a figure Johnson surpassed just twice (2022 and 2024). His daughters were committed to carrying on, just not this soon, and the year has been filled with decisions. The Keeneland sale offered reassurance that Johnson's legacy is secure. The families he cultivated continue to produce elite runners and commercial yearlings.

"We're sad he's not been around this year to see the products of his work because this year has been a standout with horses like Future Is Now and Mindframe," Motion said. "But the September sale showed what his program has become. It helps guide the family on how to proceed. I think they'd like to keep horses in training, but not as many as Larry had, and eventually get down to a more manageable number of mares."

The Keeneland results also underscored the momentum of Virginia's Thoroughbred program. Thirty-three Virginia-breds sold at Keeneland September for $4,907,000 (average $148,697), topped by a Bolt d'Oro filly bred by Amy Moore's South Gate Farm at $600,000. Susan Naylor bought the dark bay, whose dam Shea D Summer won three stakes. The mare's first foal, It's Our Time – a winner by nearly 18 lengths in his Saratoga debut – sold for $425,000 at the sale in 2024 and finished fourth as favorite in the Champagne Stakes-G1 Oct. 4.

South Gate Farm's Bolt d'Oro filly out of Shea D Summer was the most expensive Mid-Atlantic-bred at $600,000.

Like Johnson, Moore has steadily built a quality program at her farm in Millwood as the breeder of champion Forte among others.

"In my opinion, she is the best breeder and raiser of horses in Virginia," said consignor John Stuart of Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services. "Like a lot of things, if you can afford it, you want the best. Usually, if you've got the best, it's going to bring the most money and get the wealthiest people after the product."

Stuart said Naylor's connection to Colonial Downs and her awareness of the Virginia program significantly influenced her decision to purchase.

"She loves Colonial Downs," he said. "She's got a big, beautiful farm here in Kentucky, and she races here in Kentucky some, but she's figured out that having a Virginia-bred and a particularly good one, and high-end fillies, are worth having."

NOTES: Virginia breeder Audley Farm sold a Justify colt out of the Exchange Rate mare Foreign Affair to Avenue Bloodstock for $325,000 . . . Two Pennsylvania-bred colts topped $300,000 – a $475,000 Gun Runner and a $335,000 Flightline. Agent Pedro Lanz purchased the Gun Runner, bred by Blackstone Farm, for KAS Stables via consignor Taylor Made Sales Agency. Blandford Bloodstock bought the Flightline, bred by Jon Marshall, from consignor Four Star Sales . . . Mountmellerick Farm paid $250,000 for the top Maryland-bred, a filly by Golden Pal bred by Barak Farm and sold for $100,000 as a short yearling in January. ■

Turning a Page

SHAMROCK FARM RIDES LONG PAST INTO THE FUTURE

by Liane Crossley

Major changes are underway for the Maryland Thoroughbred industry with the most substantial being the demolition and onsite rebuilding of Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

On a smaller yet significant scale, Shamrock Farm – a mainstay in regional breeding for more than 70 years – was on the docket to be repurposed into an 800-stall training center with a 1-mile track and other amenities. The acquisition of Shamrock is the state's largest investment in Carroll County in recent history and follows a two-year search and evaluation of sites across six counties. The state Board of Public Works approved the purchase of the property in May as part of the overall plan involving Pimlico's demolition and rebuild with at least $110 million devoted to the 328-acre training-center project. Design sessions with the Maryland Stadium Authority, The Maryland Jockey Club, the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association and international architectural firm Populous were underway in August. In early October, all that planning sounded like progress though construction was a long way from starting and the list of yet-to-be answered questions would fill an infield lake.

None of it took away from the impact Shamrock made on the state's Thoroughbred industry.

Founded in 1948 by National Football League executive Art Rooney Sr., Shamrock was far more than a commercial Thoroughbred operation.

WINANTS COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Shamrock Farm as it looked in 1966. Founder Art Rooney and son Tim share a moment with their first Thoroughbred stallion *Piave, a South American import.

On the business side, the property was used for raising hay, straw, cattle and various horse breeds through the decades while specializing in Thoroughbreds. Shamrock was home to some of the area's most popular sires and to broodmares intended as mates for the resident stallions and others within hauling distance. The tranquility of the rolling rural hills proved perfect for raising Thoroughbred and Standardbred foals and giving racehorses time away from the track.

On the human side, Shamrock's mystique was special for generations. The facility left indelible marks on hundreds, if not thousands, of people whether they made brief visits, enjoyed the views while living nearby, worked on the property or were clients. Two beneficiaries of that Shamrock charm are Rooney's grandson Tom Rooney, president and CEO of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, and longtime farm manager Jim Steele, who with his wife Christie, raised their five sons on the farm.

As a youngster, Tom Rooney spent lots of time in lots of places with his grandfather. The elder Rooney was a revered sportsman perhaps best remembered as the founding owner and longtime leader of the Pittsburgh Steelers. He also was devoted to all aspects of the Thoroughbred world with vested interests in many tracks such as nearly forgotten venues Liberty Bell Park in Pennsylvania and Green Mountain in Vermont as well as 51-year-old Keystone Racetrack that continues on as Parx Racing. Rooney has fond memories of those days, especially of Green Mountain where he first mingled with jockeys and watched the horses. He pinpoints those experiences for his lifelong romance with the game and its equine athletes.

"I was hook, line and sinker in love with the animal and the sport from the beginning," he said. "My grandfather bought several racetracks across the country over the course of his life. My earliest childhood memories are of being with my grandfather and my dad on the backsides and watching people walk the walk and talk the talk of everything horses and racetrack operations. Even though I came from a football family, I probably spent more time with them at racetracks than I did at any football game."

Shamrock was a brief part of that togetherness. Despite accompanying his grandfather to the farm only a few times as a teenager, Rooney said in later years the place held more than just memories.

"It was a special place for him and a special place for me because of him," he said. "He passed away [in 1988], but when I return to Shamrock I have always said I feel his presence there as much as anywhere, whether we went to Three Rivers Stadium before it was torn down or restaurants in Pittsburgh or to his house on the north side of Pittsburgh. Shamrock

for me was the place where I could feel his hopes and dreams and passions that revolve around horse racing. I have special memories of my grandfather at Shamrock."

In keeping with that tradition, Rooney took his three children to Shamrock when they were under the age of 10.

"They loved seeing and petting the horses and the foals," he said. "Later I would bring them to the racetrack with me, and they have enjoyed learning to read the program and make bets, but did not get further involved. I don't know what it is about the Thoroughbred. But I think I have the DNA that has the horse obsession beyond just gambling on them."

Rooney continues to embrace all aspects of the Thoroughbred world. While serving as a United States Congressman from Florida, he was inspired to purchase the unraced filly Lucy Boo when he saw her during a family vacation to Shamrock. The daughter of Rock Slide went on to win twice and finish second in the 2015 Maryland Million Ladies Stakes at Laurel Park. She retired to Rooney's Moon Tower Ranch in Indiantown, Fla., where he houses a handful of yearlings and a few mares that rotate to Maryland for breeding and foal-

> "They hired me because the previous farm manager was a Standardbred guy and they wanted somebody to stand this Thoroughbred stallion."
>
> *– Jim Steele, about Christopher R.*

SKIP BALL COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Jim Steele leads Rooney-bred Christopher R. upon his arrival at Shamrock in 1977.

Tim Rooney (left) and Jim Steele inspect a mare and foal at Shamrock in 1989.

ing. Another success was gaining his first stakes winner as a breeder with Coffeewithchris, a starter in the 2023 Preakness Stakes-G1, who spent time at Moon Tower as a young horse.

Unlike Rooney, who spent minimal time at Shamrock, Steele spent a half-century there as manager, and his tenure reverberates through generations of horses and humans. His responsibilities included overseeing the farm stallions and introducing incalculable guests to behind-the-scenes glimpses of a Thoroughbred operation.

A Kentucky native who grew up with horses, Steele was 27 in 1977 and working at the renowned Gainesway Farm in the heart of his home state's Bluegrass region when he accepted a job offer from Shamrock while awaiting acceptance to veterinary school.

"I didn't know if I would be here six months," he said while reflecting on the decades.

He intended to become a veterinarian but realized the Shamrock opportunity was a better option. A few years into the job, he met his future wife Christie at a Thoroughbred auction at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium and settled into a life of raising horses and children. Now reluctant retirees with the closure of Shamrock, the Steeles moved to a home with three acres 25 minutes away in 2022. They board their broodmare, her foal and yearling and steeplechase racehorse King of the Kids elsewhere.

One of their final Shamrock experiences was this summer's auction of the equipment from the usual horse supplies to large machinery and random items looking for new purpose.

"When you have a farm as big as this for a long time, you've got everything," he said. "We had a small concrete mixer, extra fence posts, tons of gates, old machinery that needed repair that had been put to the side. It was a nice day for the auction, and we had a huge crowd. Some things brought less than we thought, and others brought more."

In the 1990s, Shamrock was home to about 100 broodmares divided equally among the Rooney family and clients before the herd was downsized to about 60. One of the best-known runners born and raised at Shamrock was 2002

CAPPY JACKSON COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Dancing Count finished a successful Maryland career at stud with a stint at Shamrock.

Preakness runner-up Magic Weisner. Through the years, the stallion roster included such notables as 1982 Preakness hero Aloma's Ruler, Rock Slide (a full-brother to Horse of the Year Mineshaft), Mid-Atlantic mainstay Outflanker and Christopher R.

The latter, a Rooney family homebred who chalked up 16 stakes wins, was the reason Steele got the job in the first place.

"They hired me because the previous farm manager was a Standardbred guy and they wanted somebody to stand this Thoroughbred stallion," Steele said. "He was a high-weighted male sprinter in the nation. They wanted somebody that could do that sort of thing."

Bred by Art Rooney, Christopher R. won 22 races, earned $405,515 and secured Maryland-bred Horse of the Year honors in 1975 for Shamrock and Maryland training legend Beverly "Tuffy" Hacker. The son of Loom retired after three starts in 1977 and covered a few mares that first season at Glade Valley Farm before joining Steele at Shamrock for the 1978 season. Christopher R.'s first crop of 10 foals came out running with seven winners in 1980 and he found success – if not stardom – as a stallion until his death at age 21 in 1992.

"He was a class act, he really was," said Steele. "Over the years, I've had a lot of Thoroughbred stallions. There were two sets and they kind of repeated. Christopher R. was Rock Slide. Outflanker was Dancing Count. They were very similar. He was a great horse. If he hadn't been by Loom, we would have gotten a whole lot of mares to him. Even so, he sired nice horses. They weren't great sale horses, but they were good racehorses."

That mantra would fit many of the Shamrock stallions, who found ways to impact the game without threatening to lead many lists. Outflanker sired Kosmo's Buddy, the dam of 2021 Horse of the Year and top-five freshman sire of 2025 Knicks Go. Rock Slide lived to age 25, siring among others $707,075-earner Ariana D. Dancing Count sired Grade 1 winner Countus In and was the broodmare sire of 1991 Preakness and Belmont Stakes-G1 winner and champion Hansel.

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Jim Steele and Christie Steele raised five sons at Shamrock, and gathered for a family picture in 1990.

> "He probably would rather it stay as a stud farm but with the way our sport is condensing, the farm might no longer be economically viable."
>
> *– Tom Rooney, about his grandfather and Shamrock founder Art Rooney*

Another Preakness winner, Aloma's Ruler, called Shamrock home for several years and helped teach Steele a few things.

"The first time I bred him it took four hours," Steele said. "The horse did not want to work. It got so bad I asked one of the guys to get me a chair. I sat on the chair with the stallion for four hours."

The mare was not amused, and neither was Steele who learned – eventually – that Aloma's Ruler was a fair-weather stallion.

"He didn't have any libido in February; by May he was great," Steele said. "We put him under lights, like you would do with a mare, and that moved him up. Light length helped, we learned to handle him better and it all worked well. The psychology of it was interesting."

More recent Shamrock stallion Barbados, who now stands in West Virginia, made sure the farm received another dose of success. Bred by the farm, 3-year-old Barbadian Runner sold for $5,000 as a yearling to Scott Groh and trainer Henry Walters and has piled up $643,690 in earnings (through Oct. 2) while winning five times in his first two seasons.

"I thought we were going to hit a home run with him at the sale, but that just goes to show you that you never really know," said Steele. "Now he's gone on and hit a home run for himself."

Steele said the stallion that attracted the most attention was Nicanor, famous for being a full-brother to Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Barbaro.

"He had a fan club," Steele said. "They would send birthday cards and Christmas cards. About once a year his fans would get together and see him in person. Sometimes people would call if they were in the area and ask to see him."

The farm hosted all sorts of folks from international industry members to youth groups.

"People loved coming by and seeing the foals in the spring," he said. "The spring was the nicest. We had open houses, and we did tons of tours: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, you name it. The University of Maryland would bring their breeding classes so we were teaching, too."

In welcoming so many guests, Shamrock built a reputation as a vital part of the community in a kinship that Steele hopes will continue with the new version of Shamrock.

If and when the training center becomes a reality, everyone agrees that Art Rooney would approve.

"He used to go to Pimlico early to watch horses train so he'd love that the farm was becoming a training center," Steele said. "He was very interested in everything we did. He would walk the farm every night when he'd visit – have a cigar, either chew it or smoke it, and ask questions. 'How's this going over

LOUISE E. REINAGEL (2)

CHRISTIE STEELE

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Clockwise from lower left: stallions Outflanker, Nicanor, Barbados and Aloma's Ruler stood at Shamrock. It was a farm for all seasons, cutting hay and running cattle in addition to the Thoroughbred and Standardbred stallions and broodmares.

here?' 'Which mare's doing that?' and 'What's that foal like?' He cared about the farm and the horses we were raising."

Tom Rooney believes his grandfather would understand the economics of his prime real estate.

"He probably would rather it stay as a stud farm but with the way our sport is condensing, the farm might no longer be economically viable," he said. "So, for the state to show interest in that property and become a legacy for Thoroughbred racing, he would be satisfied. I am hoping they will keep that name Shamrock as a testament to his passion for the sport. Carroll County has always been very supportive and it is one less housing development in an area known for country and farms. To keep it looking like that is a victory for the community of Woodbine and Carroll County." ■

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy

COURTESY OF THE STEELE FAMILY

Long Legacy

OWNER, BREEDER HARTWELL REMEMBERED FOR DEDICATION TO PENNSYLVANIA RACING

By Liane Crossley

The dynamic Bill Hartwell is gone but certainly not forgotten. A leader in Pennsylvania horsemen's organizations and longtime breeder, he died in April at age 85 but his program's progeny remain active and on track.

Hartwell and his widow Frances are represented these days by half-brothers Jayjaydee and Pylon whose lineage traces four generations to the Hartwells' hands. Born and raised at the the Hartwell family's 33-acre farm in Buckingham, Pa., the geldings epitomize a commitment to produce sound, durable horses with a combined 149 starts, 31 wins and $744,432 in earnings (through Oct. 8). Both are with other connections while remaining active primarily in Pennsylvania.

Frances Hartwell still owns Jayjaydee and Pylon's dam Miss Holicong (named for the road on which the farm sits) and her weanling and yearling. All three are boarded at WynOaks Farm in Delta, Pa., along with broodmare Smarter Than U and her weanling and yearling.

"Our horses were for the most part always big, well-boned and sound," their daughter Janice Viers said. "My dad really believed that the farm's grass and our well water assisted in that."

Bill blended farm work and horse care with managing his Hartwell Warehouse steel business. He shared chores with his children and employees including students from Delaware Valley University's equine program. Frances handled paperwork and stallion selections.

"My mom was the driving force in researching and picking out well-suited sires and my dad was the one who made the final selections," Viers said. "She did the books and made selections the old-fashioned way by using the [trade publications'] stallion registries and working on the nickings. My dad did the horse raising and handling along with help from his kids and grandkids."

While Frances continues with breeding, Viers and her husband Brett are keeping Hartwell's tradition alive with four runners and an unraced 2-year-old.

Bill Hartwell's love for Thoroughbreds began at a young age and reached a turning point in the early 1970s when he claimed Reigning T. V. She closed her 77-race career with 10 victories and inspired Hartwell to purchase the farm so she would have a home for life. Along with another mare, the daughter of Rainy Lake launched the family's breeding program. Their daughters were channeled back into the band so that most of the modern homebreds trace to the foundation dams. Reigning T. V. is the fourth dam of Pylon and Jayjaydee.

Jayjaydee had great personal value because he was named for Hartwell's uncle and longtime New Jersey trainer John Jack Dougherty for whom Hartwell worked during his youth.

"Reigning T. V. was his absolute love," Viers said. "She was 33 when she passed on the farm. My dad was buried with one of her teeth that he kept in his office drawer. She is the only horse buried on our farm because my dad could not part with her. As she got older, we nicknamed her Grandma."

Other favorites were Golddigger's Boy, a great-grandson of Reigning T. V., and Woody's Wish, the Hartwell's lone New Jersey-bred in the generational herd of Thoroughbreds born in the Keystone State.

A son of Jump Start, Golddigger's Boy capitalized on his Pennsylvania-bred status by collecting victories and checks at his home tracks, but he also shipped to out-of-town stakes. His best finish in the upper ranks was a second in the James Marvin Stakes-G3 at Saratoga Race Course in 2012. With an

Bill Hartwell (right) and wife Frances (second from left) joined Barbara Wheeler (center) at WynOaks Farm to see their broodmares Smarter Than U (left) and Miss Holicong.

8-6-4 record in 27 starts, he banked $585,985 and has spent his later years at stud in Pennsylvania, siring a string of money makers.

Two-time Atlantic City stakes winner Woody's Wish was less successful, but had great sentimental value. He retired after 11 wins in 51 starts and a $150,381 bankroll and Hartwell ensured that he spent the rest of his life as a cherished show horse. He was named after the Hartwell children's young friend who had a prosthetic leg. The boy asked Hartwell to name a horse for him, and he chose a son of a crooked-legged mare for the honor.

"He used to come to the farm to hang out with us," Viers said. "Dad would let him walk the mare to the paddock because as he said, 'They were the same. They had a bad leg and limped.' "

Despite the horses' successes, the family will always wonder what could have been with a special one who left the world too soon. Named Ucan'tcme, the son of Bowman's Band was produced by the Prenup mare Golddigger Beware which made him a year-younger half-brother to Golddigger's Boy. The colt showed promise in his debut when second to eventual Grade 1 winner Poseidon's Warrior in the summer of his 2-year-old season at Philadelphia Park. After gaining his first victory three starts later, Ucan'tcme won the 2010 Christopher Elser Memorial Stakes at Philadelphia Park in his final start as a juvenile. He died shortly thereafter from complications of ulcerative colitis. Hartwell's son Billy described the colt as "the best I've ever touched."

"I would say he was our best hope of winning the Kentucky Derby," Viers said of the colt named by her son Tyler. "He was the fastest horse we ever owned. My dad had such hopes that he would finally get his Derby horse. But it was not to be. Probably one of my dad and mom's saddest days in the breeding operation."

Regardless of the venture, Bill Hartwell was all in. In his youth he delivered newspapers and groceries on his bicycle in Philadelphia. The experience was a steppingstone to jobs as truck mechanic and driver and eventually as a manager

in a major transportation and logistics company. In 1981, he founded Hartwell Warehouse now based in Bristol, Pa. On the home front, he and his wife of 65 years raised four children who would give him 10 grandkids that he cherished.

He seamlessly blended corporate and family commitments when he bought their farm in 1974. In lieu of hobbies and vacations, Hartwell found his rest and relaxation as soon as he drove up the driveway after his days at his business. The Hartwell clan participated in all aspects of horse and land care and Viers has fond memories of those times.

"[My siblings and I] all assisted with the birthing and raising every horse until we moved and started our families," Viers said. "My brother Billy assisted even when he moved out and got married. We also did our share of leading and teaching of the foals as well as mucking stalls, watering, feeding, before and after school. This was a family affair."

Hartwell ensured that his kids benefitted from other aspects of farm life. He installed a pool for them to enjoy with friends and had pleasure horses for them to ride.

"I would say my dad always did the core lifting. He cut the grass, mended the fences, cleaned and painted the barns, in addition to working at Hartwell Warehouse, which he went to every day until about two months before he died," Viers said. "He was the most hard-working man I ever knew and he taught his work ethic to us. At least once a year we had what we all affectionately called 'Day of Wood' when we – including the grandkids – all helped with cutting down trees, making firewood and mending fences."

In addition to working virtually non-stop on the farm and in his company, Hartwell was an outspoken leader in the state's horsemen's groups for 20 years in the era that ushered in simulcasting and casinos. While others concentrated on the financial rewards of alternative wagering, Hartwell reminded them that the horses should be first and foremost in their decisions.

"We all miss our dad," Viers said. "He was full of life, funny, loving, loud, and crazy. You always knew when he was in a room. Some people didn't like him because he spoke his mind, but most people loved him. He will always be described as a character." ■

From top: Bill Hartwell visits with a yearling at WynOaks; one of his best homebreds was Ucan'tcme, who inspired big dreams when becoming a stakes winner as a 2-year-old at Philadelphia Park in 2010; Hartwell's top-earning homebred Golddigger's Boy retired to stud in Pennsylvania.

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The Steeplechase Times

Seizing the Day

TIMETOSHINE MAKES MOST OF CHANCE, WINS RICH COLONIAL STAKES

By Joe Clancy

It's not quite the chicken-or-the-egg argument, but opportunity matters when it comes to buying American steeplechase prospects because owners don't add horses without places to run them.

And two $100,000 hurdle stakes for fillies and mares at Virginia racetrack Colonial Downs are definitely opportunities.

In her American debut for Pennsylvania's Runnymoore Racing and Maryland-based trainer Mark Beecher, Timetoshine (Fr) ran off with the Life's Illusion Stakes at Colonial Sept. 11 – putting at least 8 lengths on six rivals and staking a claim to the top of the division.

Beecher took on some horses for Runnymoore, a flat/steeplechase owning/breeding operation owned by Greg and Caroline Bentley, this year and racing manager Joe Cassidy – with a nod toward the races at Colonial – told Beecher to keep an eye out for a filly/mare prospect.

At the Goffs horses-in-training sale at Doncaster in England in May, Beecher found Timetoshine. The daughter of The Grey Gatsby (Ire) won three flat races in France and three more over hurdles for English trainer Nicky Henderson. The 5-year-old didn't come cheap as the seventh-highest lot in the sale at approximately $194,000, but she fit the bill.

"It's great for our barn to have a chance to buy a horse like that," said Beecher. "Physically, she's not very big. She's light and she just moves across the ground very well. I thought you needed that for here and Nicky Henderson was big on her coming over here, said she'd suit here. When a man like him tells you that, you listen."

Timetoshine took some time to adapt to her new summer climate, but got lucky with a cloudy, 68-degree day at Colonial. Under Dan Nevin, she found a spot just off the early pace of Anador (Fr) and rolled past on the final turn to draw off late. Madaket's Arrow wound up third in the 2 1/4-mile race. Timetoshine carried 157 pounds, at least 10 more than her rivals, and didn't have to contend with 2025 distaff stakes winners Gold Charm (Ire) and Avakate (Ire). The newcomer would have been difficult to handle regardless.

"Do I think she's good enough to take them on?" asked Beecher. "Yes I do, but if she doesn't have to take them on I'm quite happy. She struggled with the heat a little bit when she first came. We allowed her to adapt, and five, six weeks before Colonial you could see her start to just get used to everything here."

The Life's Illusion was part of a deep steeplechase schedule at Colonial, which carded 16 races for steeplechase horses worth $872,280 over five days throughout the summer. The opportunities were appreciated by horsemen.

"Virginia has put a lot of money toward racing down there – flat and jump," said Beecher, who saddled 10 starters at the track. "We've had flat horses down there for a few years, and it was a brilliant opportunity for the jump horses too. We're all very thankful that they want the jump racing down there."

Fellow trainer Keri Brion won six races (three of each) while sending out 48 starters, and agreed with Beecher on the importance of the expansion.

"It's awesome," she said. "I've gotten owners and horses involved specifically because of that program. That type of money helps you talk to flat owners about going jumping with a horse, the races filled well, the turf was in the best shape it's been in and the mares' hurdle division is really try-

NICK PHILLIPS / COADY MEDIA

Timetoshine (center) bides her time early in the Life's Illusion Stakes at Colonial Downs in September.

ing to get itself together and part of the reason is those races at Colonial."

In addition to Beecher and Brion, trainer Jack Fisher, who won four hurdle races and two flat races (including a stakes) from a dozen total starts while Neil Morris won four hurdle races while sending out 34 starters total.

Swearing-In Ceremony

Nashville, Tenn.-based steeplechase owner Patrick Lewis doesn't leave many stones unturned as evidenced by an Equibase profile that includes horses owned solo as Upland Flats Racing and in 30-odd partnerships since 2021.

Add one more to the list as Lewis reached out to longtime friends Arthur Hancock IV and Lynn Hancock of Stone Farm late last year about Swore, a Broken Vow gelding with one win in 12 starts on the flat. Less than a year later, the 6-year-old sports two wins and a second in three hurdle starts for Upland Flats, Stone Farm and trainer Brion. On paper, the path looks direct but as usual with horses there were a few detours.

A client of Brion's for several years, Lewis mentioned teaming up with Stone Farm – founded by the Hancocks' parents Arthur III and Staci – on a horse someday to his trainer. She listened, remembered working with Mandola (who won twice over hurdles for Stone but broke his shoulder in a fall in 2015 before going through a complex surgery and being retired to the farm) and figured the concept was a longshot. Later, Lewis mentioned Swore. He won a maiden race going 1½ miles at Kentucky Downs for trainer Graham Motion, based at Fair Hill Training Center like Brion. Swore's half-brother Silent Poet won 13 races, including a Grade 1 at Woodbine, and earned $1 million. Swore's dam Cara Bella is a half-sister to Preakness Stakes-G1 winner Red Bullet.

"Why don't you see what they think?" Brion told Lewis. He called Lynn Hancock, they agreed on a price and Lewis bought 50 percent. Swore joined the barn in November and Brion and now-retired jockey Parker Hendriks focused on teaching the long-striding bay to jump before some winter turnout.

"His jumping was good from day one, he has a lot of scope, he's smart," said Brion, who also found a negative.

Swore made a breathing noise while training. Since it didn't really matter at the time, Brion ignored it. Swore wasn't running anytime soon. All he needed to do was learn to jump and spend the winter out in a field. When he came back into

CHELSEA DURAND / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

First-year hurdler Swore shows off his jumping form early in the Grade 1 Lonesome Glory at Aqueduct.

work early this year, Swore still made the noise and was also rank, unsettled and "about halfway running off" with his riders while training. Brion sent him to New Bolton Center where Dr. Eric Parente performed a throat surgery in March. Sixty days of recuperation derailed any thought of a spring campaign – and also produced a horse with a different attitude.

"He was relaxed, settled, he wanted to train, all of it when we started back training," said Brion. "Patrick and the Hancocks said to take as much time as we needed so we got him ready on his own time."

Second to the now 2-for-2 Cyber Ninja at Colonial Downs July 17, Swore won a maiden hurdle Aug. 21 at the Virginia track and stepped up two (three?) levels to win the $150,000 Lonesome Glory Handicap-G1 at Aqueduct Sept. 18. The move wasn't as audacious as it sounds. The race attracted eight runners, four off hard races at Saratoga over the summer, and none of the biggest names as Snap Decision and Abaan stayed home. Under 144 pounds, Swore set the pace for Stephen Mulqueen, got passed in the stretch by Welshman and fought back to win by a neck going 2½ miles. Sweet Will (Ire) finished third, as favorite Zarak the Brave (Fr) finished sixth to remain winless in the United States.

"I had the Lonesome Glory in my head after he won at Colonial," said Brion in all seriousness. "You know what those races are like at Saratoga in the summer, they're hard on horses. You knew who you were going to run against, the flat track suits him, it's not as crazy as it looks on paper. You're taking on horses who had run hard at Saratoga, you're getting weight, there's not as much jumping and I think the longer trip actually helped him. He jumped great and I was really proud of him."

Swore isn't the only steeplechase connection for Stone Farm, most famous for its connections to Kentucky Derby winners Gato del Sol and Sunday Silence among others. Northern Baby (sire of American steeplechase standouts Warm Spell, Highland Bud, Summer Colony, Hudson Bay and others) stood at the farm for years. In addition to Mandola, Stone campaigned a handful of steeplechase horses with Brion's former boss Jonathan Sheppard.

Saratoga Catch-Up

Brion and Mulqueen won the Jonathan Sheppard Handicap-G1 with Jimmy P to close the Saratoga steeplechase schedule Aug. 27 – the horse's second consecutive win and third consecutive start in the race (he was second in 2023).

CHELSEA DURAND / COGLIANESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Jimmy P clears a fence on the way to his second consecutive victory in the Jonathan Sheppard Handicap at Saratoga.

In races not named for the Hall of Fame trainer, Jimmy P finished fifth, sixth, fourth, seventh, fourth, eighth, fourth and fifth.

Racing for Madaket Stables and Molly and Paul Willis, the son of Slumber (GB) was beaten 6¼ lengths in the A.P. Smithwick-G1 July 23, but rebounded with a better effort Brion credited to a smoother trip and race flow.

"When it's not going to plan, he's not happy at all. Today, he was able to do what he wanted to do. I was much, much more confident watching today," said Brion who removed blinkers for the Sheppard. "Last time, three fences in, I was like, 'Jimmy is in trouble.' You just knew he wasn't going to do anything from there. He hated being down on the inside, Stephen had no choice, he was never happy. We said today if he's as good as we think he can be, don't get in his way, let him stay wide, get him running early. That was the difference."

Down the backside the final time, Zarak the Brave took over from The Insider (Ire) and Jimmy P followed that move. Midway on the turn, Zarak the Brave opened 2 lengths as Jimmy P and St James the Great swung wide. Mulqueen switched his whip from left to right and took one last shot at Zarak the Brave. They reached equal terms in mid-stretch and Jimmy P plugged all the way to the line for his fifth jump win and sixth overall.

Campaigned on the flat by Sol Kumin's Madaket Stable and Head of Plains Partners, the Kentucky-bred broke his maiden on the turf at Tampa Bay Downs for Motion in January 2021. Five losses followed and he was a jumper for Madaket, the Willises and Brion by July 2022.

"The horse was not that fast on the flat. It's been good, we've been able to find spots for some of these horses who we think can run all day and maybe aren't elite on the flat," Kumin said. "Having bred him, by Slumber who is a stallion we support, makes it a little more special. They're always harder to move on when you've had them since they were little, when you have baby pictures. It's great, anytime you can win a big race at Saratoga, it's exciting. All the wins feel great, our partners are primarily in the jumpers so they're super excited. That's what it's all about, an awesome day."

Mulqueen bagged his second Grade 1 aboard Jimmy P and continued to bounce back from a tough spring when he broke his foot in May.

"The Smithwick we went steady. He needs a good gallop to aim at. I was looking through his form last night, I actually think he just needs a good gallop over 2½," Mulqueen said. "I

was flat out everywhere. Everywhere. I was flat out but in the back of my mind, you can go up through the gears with him, when you hit top gear, there's a little bit extra there. I knew jumping the second to last, I would win. Flat track, go a gallop, where it brings stamina into it but doesn't get to the bottom of the barrel, I'd say that's his kettle of fish. But, hey, he's won two Sheppards."

■ Trainer Ricky Hendriks doubled at Saratoga with Little Trilby (GB) joining stablemate Hidden Path as a hurdle winner at the New York track. Owned by Del Rio Racing, the 5-year-old rallied from 18½ lengths behind to win the $75,000 Mickey Walsh Memorial novice stakes Aug. 13. Conor Tierney rode the winner, who paid $36.60 as the longest shot on the board of a seven-horse race.

Off two Irish hurdle wins, the son of Golden Horn (GB) made his American debut in the 2024 Walsh and finished last of seven. He closed that season with a win at Aiken and opened 2025 with a second in the Carolina Cup. He tuned up for the Walsh with a fifth in the Beverly Steinman-G1 in June.

Jumping Around

The fall season started Sept. 27 in Maryland at Shawan Downs, where Maryland-bred Keys Discount won his third consecutive timber stakes for owner Dolly Fisher, trainer Jack Fisher and jockey Graham Watters in the $25,000 Brown Advisory.

Bred by Bryan Minnich, the 6-year-old son of Medal Count rated sixth of 10 early, took over on the final turn and won by 4¼ lengths as Animal Kingston finished second with Queens Empire (Ire) third. The winner sold for $2,000 to Gordie Keys as a yearling at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic in 2020 and lost four flat starts for trainer Madison Meyers in 2022. The losing continued through four hurdle starts, but his timber career – which started in May 2024 – includes four wins and a third in six tries. This year started with a win at Middleburg in April, the Virginia Gold Cup in May and then the Shawan race for $97,500 earned through Oct. 10.

In other action at Shawan, Fisher added two more wins, both for Riverdee Stable – a 3-year-old maiden hurdle with Ethics (Freddie Procter up) and a first-level allowance hurdle with Cyber Ninja, ridden by Watters.

Bred by Claiborne Farm and Adele Dilschneider, Ethics (by Hard Spun) raced on the flat for trainer Riley Mott and hails from a female family that traces back to star broodmares Wild Applause, Glowing Tribute (the dam of Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Sea Hero, and Grade 1 winner Hero's Honor among others) and *La Troienne. A stakes-placed son of Arrogate bred by George Krikorian and trained on the flat by Bill Mott, Cyber Ninja won for the second time in as many hurdle starts after winning at Colonial Downs in July.

Trainer Tom Garner unveiled Max'd Out (Ire), a £65,000 purchase at the Goffs Doncaster Sale in May, to win a $30,000 maiden hurdle for owner Irv Naylor and jockey Evan Dwan. The 4-year-old son of Maxios won an Irish point-to-point to flash potential. Trainer Leslie Young doubled at Shawan, taking a 115 handicap hurdle with Rucker Road (Ire) for owner Sharon Sheppard and jockey Mell Boucher and a maiden timber with The Hero Next Door (Ire) for owner Michael Smith and jockey Jamie Bargary.

A week after Shawan, the circuit turned to Charlottesville, Va., and the Foxfield Races Oct. 5. Riverdee's Cool Jet (Ire) won the feature, the $75,000 Mariann de Tejeda Memorial-G3 over hurdles for Fisher and jockey Bernie Dalton. The 9-year-old finished fourth in the 2024 race and finished second over the course in April, a week before winning the Commonwealth Cup-G1 at Great Meadow.

It was his fifth win in 12 starts (four at Foxfield) since being imported as a maiden in 2022. The de Tejeda drew a field of seven topped by champion Snap Decision in his first start since May. Under 162 pounds, the 11-year-old threatened briefly on the final turn but settled for fifth as Cool Jet shadowed Foxy Walk (Ire) throughout and took over late to win by 4¾ lengths. Foxy Walk held on for second, a neck ahead of Who's Counting.

Owner Jim Steele, better known as the longtime manager of Maryland's Shamrock Farm, found the winner's circle for the third time with his one-horse steeplechase stable King of the Kids in the 120 handicap. Bred in Minnesota, the 6-year-old Lemon Drop Kid gelding cost $18,000 as part of the Lothenbach dispersal sale in 2024. Dalton rode the winner for trainer Cyril Murphy.

Garner and Dwan teamed up to win a maiden claiming hurdle with Maranto Manor's Beowulf (Ire). Gossiper made it look easy with a 9¼-length romp in the filly/mare maiden hurdle for owners Adam Newman, Tom Rice and James Stainbrook. The 4-year-old daughter of English Channel prepped with a flat win (by 14 lengths) at Fair Hill Aug. 30. Newman, Rice and Molly and Paul Willis won the maiden hurdle with first-timer Attrayant, another 4-year-old by English Channel, trained by Barry Foley. Harrison Beswick rode the winner, who scored by 11 lengths. Maryland-bred mare Love Saga got up in the final yards to win the 110 handicap hurdle by a neck over Dante's Fire for trainer Sean McDermott. Bargary rode the winner, who halted a six-racing losing streak for owner Ivy Hill Stable. ■

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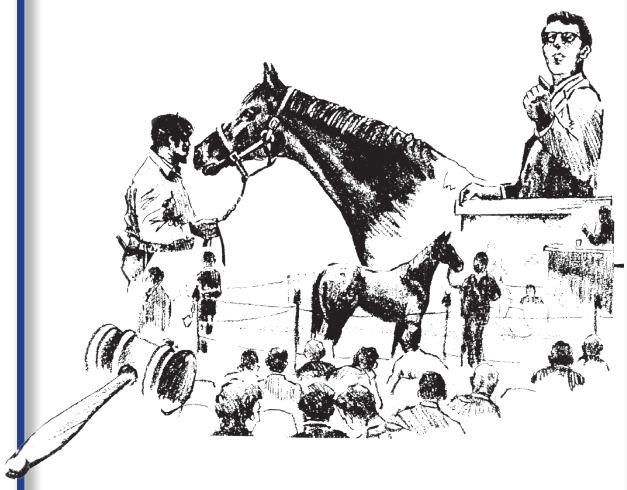

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Happy Travelers

BAEZA, SHIRREFFS ENJOY TRIP TO PENNSYLVANIA FOR DERBY SCORE

By Paul Halloran ■ *Photographs by Equi-Photo, Inc.*

If Parx Racing is looking for an ambassador, or even the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce for that matter, John Shirreffs is their man.

You'd expect Shirreffs to be happy after Baeza finally had his day in winning the $1 million betPARX Pennsylvania Derby-G1. But for the veteran trainer from California, the 14th race Saturday, Sept. 20 was the culmination of a pleasant week in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

John Shirreffs, trainer of Baeza.

"I was impressed with Parx. It amazed me how clean the backside was," said Shirreffs, whose horse was stabled in John Servis' barn, with Servis' son Tyler holding down the fort while John was in Kentucky. "The stall had its own screen, it had its own fan. They had some white synthetic material that kept the horses from chewing on the wood. I thought the track was nice. Obviously, it's a little on the deep side, but on race day, it seemed very fair. Parx was great."

Shirreffs sent Baeza on a fourth cross-country trip in search of an elusive second win, after he finished third in the Kentucky Derby-G1, third in the Belmont Stakes-G1 and second in the Jim Dandy Stakes-G2. The winner of those races, Sovereignty, was 250 miles away at Bill Mott's Saratoga base when the Pennsylvania Derby was run. It was Baeza's turn.

"He needed to win something," said Shirreffs, who was rewarded for his unyielding faith in his well-traveled 3-year-old colt. "And to win the Pennsylvania Derby. Look at all the great horses that have won it. I was at dinner in the casino watching the tape of the horses that have run in it. It's a great group."

Even without Sovereignty, the Pennsylvania Derby attracted a solid field that included Gosger, second to Journalism in the Preakness Stakes-G1 and Haskell Invitational-G1, Goal Oriented, fourth and third, respectively, in those two races, and graded winner Magnitude, who most recently demolished the Iowa Derby and was third in the Travers Stakes-G1, though no match for Sovereignty. Trainer Michael McCarthy elected to stay in California with Journalism, who was second against older horses in the Pacific Classic-G1 three weeks before the Pennsylvania Derby.

Rail runner So Sandy led a compact group into the first turn of the 1⅛-mile Pennsylvania Derby, with seven horses within 3 lengths of the lead as they turned down the backstretch. There were two groups of three across the track: So Sandy, David of Athens and Goal Oriented, followed by Magnitude, Big Truzz and Gosger, through a quarter-mile in :23.01 and a half in :46.63.

Baeza started to advance under Hector Berrios and was only 4 lengths off the lead at the three-eighths pole after 6 furlongs in 1:10.51. The son of McKinzie unleashed a rally on the far turn that saw him advance five places within a

California-based Baeza kicks away from the crowd to win the Grade 1 Pennsylvania Derby in his fourth trip east this year.

furlong, with only Goal Oriented left to catch. Baeza did that before the eighth pole and gave Shirreffs, watching from the rail between the finish line and the first turn, a stretch run he could finally enjoy.

"That was one of the most exciting races I have ever participated in, to tell you the truth," Shirreffs said. "And that includes races with [2010 Horse of the Year] Zenyatta. This was like, 'Prove yourself.' And he did. This was very gratifying. We have been close in some of the big races and he put it all together."

Magnitude closed for second, 2 lengths clear of Goal Oriented, with So Sandy fourth. The final time was 1:48.03.

A half-brother to 2023 Kentucky Derby winner Mage and 2024 Belmont winner Dornoch, Baeza is owned by C R K Stable and breeder Grandview Equine. If you're wondering whether Shirreffs was looking for vindication after all the close calls, wonder no more.

"Obviously, we were," he said. "They talked about him as being third-best. We wanted him to run well, wanted him to win. A lot was riding on the race. What people thought of him was riding on the race, so it was a big day for us."

And a great week for Shirreffs, who didn't get to the Rocky statue at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, but made the most of his trip nonetheless.

"I was a little confused about Bensalem until I got a little away from the town," Shirreffs said. "And then it was like going off into the Pennsylvania country. I thought it was just beautiful. The rolling hills and little narrow roads. I was on one road and I saw this tunnel coming up. I said, 'Well, I better slow down a little bit because I wasn't familiar with it.' I was going through the tunnel and said, 'You know what? I don't think there's enough room for two cars to get by in here.' That was different for a guy from California. But I thought the area around Bensalem was beautiful."

> "It was excellent. I can't tell you how great it was, really. Everybody was so helpful. And like I said, the facility was great."
>
> *– Trainer John Shirreffs, on his first trip to Parx Racing*

Shirreffs discovered Neshaminy State Park, which sits on the Delaware River.

"It had some really nice trails that I was able to walk on," he said. "I walked by the river, and it was really beautiful, and it was fun to get out there and just go for a walk and relax. My whole experience was really nice. Then, of course, the best part was on Saturday."

Shipping from his Santa Anita Park base a week before the race, Shirreffs needed a barn to stable Baeza. He didn't know John Servis, but he came highly recommended.

"I heard from everybody that if you get into John Servis' barn, you should do it," Shirreffs said. "So, I called him and he said, 'Sure, anything you need, we'll be glad to help you.' That's exactly what happened. He was a man of his word."

Tyler Servis, who has his own string while still helping his father, played the role of host and provided Shirreffs with an exercise rider, Kaya Payne. "They were so nice. Anything I needed, they were happy to provide," Shirreffs said.

Tyler Servis said he and the staff were happy to host Baeza – along with Dry Powder, a Chad Summers trainee who shipped in the day before the $1 million Cotillion-G1, the Bob Baffert duo of Goal Oriented and Barnes, fourth in the Gallant Bob-G2, and Paulo Lobo's Kentucky shipper No Bien Ni Mal (Brz), the $200,000 Greenwood Cup Stakes-G3 winner. Exercise rider Emmanuel Rodriguez got on the Baffert horses in the days leading up to their races.

"Yeah, we were the receiving barn that week," Servis said. "Just to be surrounded by horses of the caliber of Baeza was great. I was lucky enough to work for my dad and be around for a couple of the stints that he went through with those type of quality horses. Any time they get back around you, you could feel the energy in the barn, and it was great."

The Servis crew certainly had rooting interests on the stakes-filled card.

"Kaya is actually my assistant and he gets on my horses as well," Servis said. "I know he was really happy, and he enjoyed the experience a ton. Getting off of my maiden 10 claimers and getting on a horse like that probably really made his day. He actually got in the winner's circle, too. And John was very generous and took care of the guys very well. He's a complete class act, and easy to work with."

Shirreffs was happy to leave a five-star review for Hotel Servis.

"It was excellent. I can't tell you how great it was, really," he said. "Everybody was so helpful. And like I said, the facility was great."

■ Handicapping races is tough. Handicapping horsemen might be even tougher. Every once in a while, though, even the shrewdest horsemen tip their hand by way of what they say – and don't say – and what they do.

Brendan Walsh did both in the week leading up to the $1 million Cotillion-G1 with Clicquot. Contacted five days before the race, in the midst of working the Keeneland September yearling sale, Walsh discussed his pair of Derby runners in Gosger and David of Athens rather matter-of-fact before changing his tone just a bit talking about Clicquot.

"This is obviously the first big test for her, and it will be a big test," Walsh said of the three-time winning daughter of Quality Road. "There are some nice fillies in there, but I don't think she'll be out of place."

Three days later, walking back to the barn after watching Gosger and David of Athens gallop on the Parx main track and on the way to prepare Clicquot for her late-morning, Walsh tipped again.

"She'd stand out here all day if we let her," Walsh said. "She's all class."

Clicquot showed that class, along with a healthy amount of determination, with a narrow victory over Dry Powder in the 1 1/16-mile Cotillion. Under Irad Ortiz Jr., Clicquot closed from fifth early and took the lead in the stretch from Dry Powder to win by a neck, with Parx-based Ourdaydreaminggirl another head back in third. Scottish Lassie, making her first start since a monster score in the Coaching Club American Oaks-G1 in mid-July at Saratoga, finished fourth as the 8-5 favorite.

Scottish Lassie, Acorn-G1 winner La Cara and Kentucky Oaks-G1 winner Good Cheer headlined the Cotillion, billed as a race to potentially help determine the 2025 champion

Clicquot strikes a pose after winning the Grade 1 Cotillion for trainer Brendan Walsh.

3-year-old filly. After that trio finished fourth, fifth and sixth, and Clicquot paired the Cotillion with her victory in the July 5 Indiana Oaks-G3, the championship race became more muddled than ever.

Walsh didn't lobby for his filly after winning the Cotillion for owners X-Men Racing, Madaket Stables and SF Racing, but didn't toss her out either.

"The main thing is we got here and got this done," Walsh said. "I'm very proud of her and proud of my team, they put in great work with her. I've got to thank the owners . . . the whole lot of them. They're great people to work for. They left me alone all year, let me do my thing and it's been fantastic."

■ Parx carded 15 races (all on dirt) for Pennsylvania Derby Day, which matched the 15-race card for the 2023 Louisiana Derby Day card at Fair Grounds. Woodbine carded 16 races for its closing day program Dec. 15, 2019 . . . Shippers won four of the other five stakes on the card, with Happy Tenth Stable's Buccherino the lone local to come away with a victory. The Florida-bred son of Bucchero closed the card with a 1½-length win over Full Moon Madness in the $150,000 Parx Sprint Stakes for trainer Alfredo Velazquez. Two lengths covered the first six finishers. . . Also winning stakes on the day were Canterbury Park shipper Mad House at 23-1 in the $400,000 Gallant Bob-G2, New York-based Nelson Avenue in the $300,000 Parx Dirt Mile and New York-based Mystic Lake in the $150,000 Liberty Bell . . . The Pennsylvania Derby drew a large crowd that enjoyed perhaps the best weather in the history of the race, with temperatures in the low 70s and not a cloud in the sky. The all-sources handle was $17.8 million, second-highest in track history behind the $18.8 million that was wagered on the 2022 card headlined by Pennsylvania Derby winner Taiba. ■

– Additional reporting by Tom Law.

— Trackside: Presque Isle Downs —

Good Kisser

PENNSYLVANIA-BRED SMOOCH UP SCORES IN DEBUTANTE

By Joe Clancy ■ *Photographs by Coady Media*

The Grade 2 Presque Isle Downs Masters and ungraded Presque Isle Mile monopolized most of the attention on the Erie, Pa., track's big night Sept. 19, but regional-breds found ways to make noise on the undercard.

Loudly.

Pennsylvania-bred Smooch Up got things started with a win in the $100,500 Presque Isle Debutante for 2-year-old fillies. Racing for breeders Robert and Tammy Klimasewski, the 2-year-old daughter of Cupid prevailed by a nose while holding off In Her Glory who was 3¼ lengths clear of Peach Tie in third. Part of a 10-horse field, Smooch Up represented the home team as she won for the third time in as many tries over the synthetic Tapeta surface.

She comes by the fondness naturally.

"Her dam just loved Tapeta, she was pretty popular at Presque Isle," said Tammy Klimasewski of Shush Up, whose racing career included eight wins over three seasons at the track. "She's a small, compact mare, but she's correct and she's been a lot of fun."

Shush Up won nine of 31 lifetime starts and earned $164,436 before joining the broodmare band. Her six foals to race are all winners at Presque Isle. Predictably, there's a theme to the names: (in order) Stuck Up, Squad Up, Geared Up, Uppity Up, Going Up and now Smooch Up.

"I wanted Pucker Up, but that was taken," Tammy said of the 1957 champion older female. "We've had a lot of fun and the announcer up there [Jeff Cernik] has fun with it too."

In the Debutante, Smooch Up let Thank You Amy and Miss Thalia set the early pace, and jumped into a stalking spot in third while inside for jockey Pablo Morales. The gray cleared from behind Thank You Amy coming off the turn, built a quick 1-length lead and gutted out the narrow tally in 1:16.22 for 6½ furlongs.

The $60,000 first-place check pushed her racetrack earnings to $119,360 in four starts. Smooch Up represents the diverse Thoroughbred plan of her owners/breeders, who own farms in New York (Legend Land North) and Florida (Legend Land South). Loosely, the horses foal in Pennsylvania or New York, grow up in New York, do some early work in Florida, get Virginia-certified while pre-training, then go back to Florida and – all staying on schedule – head to the racetrack with trainer Ron Potts. Legend Land used to sell horses in New York and Maryland, but has scaled back to a private operation fueled by six broodmares and the amenities of the newer Florida farm in Ocala.

"We raise a handful of horses every year," said Tammy, who appreciates the Pennsylvania and Virginia programs for their varied opportunities. "They have a good program in Pennsylvania and when the Virginia program got started, we decided it made sense to send them there too."

Foaled at Shirley Lojeski's farm in Emmaus, Pa., and prepped at Virginia's Eagle Point Farm, Smooch Up made her debut in July and won by 6 lengths going 5 furlongs. Third behind Just Philtored and Slewperstitus in the Keswick Stakes on the dirt at Colonial Downs in August, Smooch Up dominated just two rivals in a first-level allowance at Presque Isle in late August to set up the Debutante try.

For Tammy Klimasewski, the racetrack success continues an interest that began more than 40 years ago. She grew up near Binghamton, N.Y., competed in horse shows and would skip school to attend the Unadilla horse auction. Watching teenager Steve Cauthen win the 1978 Triple Crown on

Pennsylvania-bred 2-year-old filly Smooch Up (right) digs in late to win the Presque Isle Debutante for owner/breeders Tammy and Robert Klimasewski.

Affirmed convinced her to try to become a jockey, and her experience with the speed of barrel racing made her think it couldn't be all that hard. She rode races on a straightaway – mostly – Quarter Horse "bush" track in Binghamton, lied about her age to get a license to ride races at Tioga Park and as Tammy Rogers rode 285 races at Finger Lakes from 1979-84 according to equineline.com.

"The Binghamton races were crazy," she said. "It was a Quarter Horse track, straightaway but with kind of a J at the finish. It was such a short stop that a lot of riders would jump off their horses. I used to barrel race, so I was kind of used to it. Once the horses had been on it a few times they learned to skid to a stop."

She's a long way from that, and the program has reached double-digit wins in each of the last four years with a potential for more. Shush Up is in foal to Senor Buscador and her weanling by Dialed In already looks the part.

"It's always been our dream to breed our own little stakes horses, so it's fun to see it happen," Tammy said. "We don't miss many races. We'll fly anywhere to see a 30-1 shot run."

One race after the Debutante, Maryland-bred Live Stream denied the Klimasewskis a second stakes win with a head decision over Inmate in the $100,500 Fitz Dixon Jr. Memorial for 2-year-olds. Bred by Charlie and Cynthia McGinnes, Live Stream sold for $2,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale in 2024 and graduated the maiden ranks in his second start at Presque Isle July 7. In the Dixon, the son of Long River gave his nine foes a head start by hopping out of the gate but found his stride and was in touch after the leaders covered the opening quarter-mile in :22.46. Angled off the rail at the top of the stretch by Martina Rojas, the bay gelding outsprinted Inmate over the final furlong to score at 8-1. Inmate beat A Million Dreams by three-quarters of a length for second after 6½ furlongs in 1:16.89.

ASHLEY PHILLIPS / COADY MEDIA

Maryland-bred Live Stream (2) prevails in the Fitz Dixon Memorial at Presque Isle.

> "It's always been our dream to breed our own little stakes horses, so it's fun to see it happen."
>
> *– Owner/breeder Tammy Klimasewski*

Trained by the jockey's mother Murray Rojas for RJG Management, the winner comes from a long line of regional-breds including Maryland-bred dam Goodnight Angel and second dam Oneminutetomidnite. New Jersey-bred stakes-winning third dam Muffies Muffin won 10 races for owner/breeder Dr. George Rosenberger and produced five stakes performers. In addition to Live Stream, Goodnight Angel has produced Grade 3-placed winner Passion Rules and four other winners from as many starters.

Godolphin homebred Encino lived up to his favoritism, with a 1¾-length win in the $150,000 Mile (actually 1 1/16 miles) for trainer Brad Cox and jockey Flavien Prat. The 4-year-old Nyquist colt rallied from sixth with a quarter-mile to go to oust pacesetter Grounded, with Trademark third. The dark bay collected his sixth victory and fourth in a stakes while pushing his career earnings to $650,005.

Trainer Miguel Clement landed a minor upset in the $301,000 Masters with Gal in a Rush, who scored by a length over 3-1 favorite Ellen Jay for West Point Thoroughbreds, Chris Larsen and Titletown Racing Stables. Joel Rosario rode the daughter of Ghostzapper, who ended a seven-race losing streak that went back more than a year and included a third in last year's Masters.

Gal in a Rush had to work to get there this year as she was behind a wall of five horses at the top of the stretch before taking Rosario's cue to shift inside and rally up the rail. Seven-wide off the turn, Ellen Jay caught everyone but the winner as Tricky Temper held third. The 6-year-old won for the fifth time and lifted her lifetime bankroll to $661,257.

NOTES: With 12 days left in the 2025 season, which ended Oct. 23, Juan Arriagada led the trainers' standings with 36 wins, five more than Kevin Rice and Randall Russell, Scooter Davis (29), Potts (28) and Brandon Kulp (27) rounded out the top six . . . Arriagada led the owners with 29 wins, eight more than Russell . . . Antonio Gallardo's 76 wins put him atop the jockeys' board, followed by Morales with 69 and Gaddiel Martinez at 54 . . . La Girvina led all horses with five wins at the meet, a streak that started with a $12,500 claimer June 24. The 5-year-old mare led six horses with four wins at the meet. ■

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One More Road Trip

Jaxon Traveler retires to stud at A&A Ranch in New Mexico

By Ali Çetinok

Jaxon Traveler, a durable, well-known and well-supported Maryland-bred speedster who collected at least one stakes victory every year from ages 2 through 7, was retired from racing and will start a new career as a stallion at A&A Ranch in Anthony, N.M.

The multiple graded stakes winner made 37 starts while carrying his speed across North America and earning $1,131,643. Trained throughout by Hall of Famer Steve Asmussen, the son of Munnings and the After Market mare Listen Boy leaves the racetrack with a résumé that shows his toughness.

"He just always gave 100 percent," said Dawn Lenert, chief marketing officer and director of partner relations for West Point Thoroughbreds. "There are a lot of horses that have a lot of talent, but they don't always give it to you. Yet with Jaxon, you always knew what you're going to get. He was a very smart horse, and he used that to his advantage, too. He was very good at telling Steve when he was ready to go out there again; he just took care of himself."

Bred by veterinarians Leonard and Patricia Pineau, Jaxon Traveler sold twice at auction – for $80,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September in 2019 and for $140,000 on a bid by David Ingordo for West Point at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company the following April. He quickly rewarded the investment. He went 3-for-3 as a juvenile, capped by the Maryland Juvenile Futurity at Laurel Park. He was honored as Maryland-bred champion 2-year-old and repeated with champion 3-year-old honors in 2021.

His stakes wins totaled 10, including graded triumphs in the 2022 Maryland Sprint-G3 at Pimlico and the 2024 Whitmore-G3 at Oaklawn Park. The first three starts of his career were in Maryland at Pimlico and Laurel, but then he went on the road – competing at tracks from A to Z: Aqueduct, Belmont Park, Lone Star, Mahoning Valley, Oaklawn, Prairie Meadows, Remington Park, Saratoga, Sunland Park, Woodbine and Zia Park. The career map included 13 tracks in eight states plus Ontario in Canada.

"Steve Asmussen and his team were very strategic with Jaxon Traveler on where we could leverage his speed, because he was very fast," Lenert said. "Where could he get in races throughout the country? He went everywhere . . . Up and down the East Coast, Canada, and then when he went out West, it was remarkable."

That travel, experiencing a wide range of venues and meeting a diverse group of people, Lenert believes, shaped Jaxon Traveler's life.

"That really helped with longevity too," she said. "The other thing about him that was really unique is he was just so darn likable. He traveled a lot, and Steve shipped him a lot, so it wasn't always team Asmussen. We would go to racetracks where Steve didn't have a string. He had to go into the care of other people. I went to a lot of those races, and every single person that I encountered who was handling him for the race or whatever, the first thing out of their mouth all the time, I'm not kidding, was, 'He's such a cool horse.' "

Lenert recalled that same reaction from Fred Alexander of A&A Ranch.

"The first thing out of the email correspondence was, 'Wow. Jaxon is such a cool horse,' " Lenert said. "It's just verbatim . . . You could talk to anybody who handled him other than Steve's team, and that's what they would say. That just tells you the horse has a presence. He has a personality."

More than a performer on the racetrack, Jaxon Traveler also built a following among West Point's partners, and for Lenert Jaxon Traveler's departure to New Mexico leaves a void.

"He's really impacted me," she said. "I've been fortunate enough to work at West Point for a long time. We've had and have really nice athletes and horses but Jaxon, I'm just very attached to him because, for everything I've been saying, it's hard not to be attached to a horse like that. I'm going to miss him. I was texting some of his partners after the deal was done, and he made it to New Mexico. I said, 'Well, there's going to be a big void.' I'm not so sure anybody's going to be able to fill it for a while. It's just hard. Not every horse makes me kind of wistful like this."

Jaxon Traveler joins a stallion roster at A&A Ranch that includes New Mexico's leading sire Marking and Grade 1 winner Sporting Chance. For Fred and Linda Alexander, who built their Thoroughbred program into one of the state's leading breeders, the addition is as practical as it is symbolic.

"It's been over 25 years," Fred Alexander said of the farm's history. "We originated in the Quarter Horse business and I kind of got lucky. It was weird how I fell into the Thoroughbred line, but it was through a stallion that somebody brought to our farm, and his name was Desert God. He was a son of Fappiano . . . out of Blush with Pride."

Though Desert God was unraced, he became a foundation sire for the Alexanders, producing quality runners, including the undefeated mare Peppers Pride, an earner of $1,066,085 in 19 starts who retired in 2009 with the modern-day American record for consecutive wins, as well as multiple stakes winner Rose's Desert, the dam of Saudi Cup-G1 winner Senor Buscador, the latter with earnings just shy of $13 million.

"It took awhile to get him going but once he did, his horses could go to two turns. That's kind of how we got started on the Thoroughbreds; it was through Desert God. It's just continually growing. We've been awfully blessed."

Since, the Alexanders have stood leading stallions in the Southwest such as Roll Hennessy Roll, Attila's Storm, Diabolical, and now Marking, who has dominated New Mexico sire lists in recent years. Alexander said Jaxon Traveler's profile makes him an ideal addition, especially in the Land of Enchantment.

"The thing is, we're basically known out here for speed," Alexander said. "He's run for 5 to 6 furlongs. He wasn't a two-turn horse. It's all about gas here. That was the interest in him. He should cross well with a lot of the fillies. The Attila's Storm and Marking fillies that have been out here recently will be in the breeding program. He's got a future for sure. He's just such a cool horse to be around. You could throw a saddle on him now and run him down the street."

The early reception has been strong, and Jaxon Traveler's speed caught the eye of many. Alexander introduced the new stallion to the state's breeders as part of a preview to the farm's yearling draft in October's Fasig-Tipton digital sale and liked the response. Jaxon Traveler might even attract Quarter Horse breeders.

"I had some Quarter Horse people there that were intrigued and fell in love with him and wanted to know what the stud fee was going to be on a Quarter Horse," Alexander said. "I said, 'Well, I haven't got that far yet. I didn't know you guys would be interested.' But they fell in love with him and have been waiting for the right Thoroughbred stallion in this part of the country to breed to. They said, 'Man, he's the one. I'd bring some mares to him.' So that was exciting."

While New Mexico might be full of excitement for Jaxon Traveler's arrival, Pat Pineau said they continue to follow Listen Boy's progeny, hoping to create another speedster.

"We do have a yearling out of Listen Boy [from the first crop of Jack Christopher, a son of Munnings] who has just been sent to be broken," she said. "She's a beautiful filly. We like her a lot so we're keeping her."

Listen Boy has been a foundation mare for the Pineaus. "Listen Boy was foaled over the road from us at Sagamore Farm," Pat said. "Lennie actually bought her at her sale sight unseen [in November 2015], and she's been with us ever since."

As he transitions to stallion life, Jaxon Traveler brings the achievements of a top racehorse, but also carries the hopes of the people whose lives he touched.

"He was good to them for sure," Alexander said of West Point. "They had a lot of success with him for several years. The soundness of the horse, he retired at 37 starts. He was well-traveled. He's named appropriately, Jaxon Traveler. He went everywhere and ran against some tough horses, and he always showed up, and he retired sound. That says a lot. We're excited to get babies on the ground."

❧

UPCOMING

Maryland Horse Library Events

Monday, November 10 • 4-6 PM • Riding To Arms
In recognition of Veterans Day, University of Maryland professor and author Charles Caramello will discuss his book *Riding To Arms, A History of Horsemanship and Mounted Warfare*.

Friday, December 19 • 11 AM-4 PM • A Holiday Open House!
Enjoy exploring our collection, meeting the staff, and celebrating the season.

REGISTER FOR EVENTS AT MARYLANDHORSE.COM/EVENTS

Maryland-bred Stakes Winner

Had to Have Him breaks through in Laurel Dash

Jeff Snyder

Gracie Mae Stables and Great Lake Stable's Had to Have Him earned his first stakes victory in the $100,000 Laurel Dash for 3 and up going 6 furlongs on the turf Sept. 13 at Laurel Park.

Trained by John Salzman Jr., Had to Have Him had four stakes-placings coming in, including a close finish in the $150,000 Van Clief at Colonial Downs in his previous start Aug. 9 when missing by a neck to Witty, and a third in the Ben's Cat Stakes at Laurel in June. Eighteen of his 20 starts have been at Laurel (through Sept. 13), where he's hit the board 11 times. His career mark stands at five wins, two seconds and six thirds, with earnings of $288,070.

Under J.G. Torrealba, the 4-year-old bay gelding broke slowly but moved up to sit behind leaders Fore Harp and Where's Ray through an opening quarter-mile in :22.61 and a half in :45.16.

Entering the turn, Torrealba took Had to Have Him the scenic route to victory, going wide and rallying down the center. He beat out Saratoga shipper and favorite Mischievous Angel by 2 lengths in 1:09.20 over the firm course.

From the first crop – and only one sired in Maryland – for Grade 1-winning turf horse Force the Pass, Had to Have Him was bred by Wes Carter and sold at 2 through the 2023 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic June sale to Colts Neck Stable for $36,000. Well beaten in his only start late that year, he made his first start at 3 in January, which resulted in a win over Laurel's main track at 6 furlongs, and a claim by trainer John Salzman Sr. for $20,000 for his current owners. Two weeks later, Salzman ran him in the Spectacular Bid Stakes – he showed speed before fading and finishing third in the three-horse field.

"[My dad] called me about the horse," Salzman Jr. said. "I really liked [Force the Pass]. We went and looked at [Had to Have Him]. I told [my dad] that it was worth taking the chance, and it paid off."

Had to Have Him had a busy 3-year-old season, starting 15 times, winning three, while also counting a second and five thirds. He finished third in the Maryland Million Turf Sprint at 12-1 and got a break after two off-the-board finishes in November. While away for six months, he was gelded and transferred to Salzman Jr. following Salzman Sr.'s retirement. He returned in an off-the-turf sprint in late May at Laurel, while risked for a $40,000 tag, and won.

"Gelding him really made a difference. He's a professional. He handles everything so good," said Salzman after the race. "He's a nice horse to have. He's impressing me every time he runs, this horse."

The first stakes winner for Force the Pass, who stood at Anchor and Hope Farm in Port Deposit before being sold to Saudi Arabia before the 2021 season, Had to Have Him is the second foal out of Success At Sunup, a Successful Appeal mare Carter purchased as a yearling for $45,000 at the 2013 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale and campaigned to win or place in five of 15 starts.

The mare is also the dam of Maryland-breds Sunshineanrainbows, a four-time winner by Mosler, and 3-year-old filly Bella Cattiva (by Imagining), who galloped in a maiden claimer Aug. 23 at Timonium. Her 2-year-old Shenadoah Sunrise, by Maryland freshman sire Engage, was foaled in Kentucky and has yet to start. ❧

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run at Colonial Downs and Delaware Park from July 4 through August 16, 2025

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Andrew E. Ali—Decorum: Del, July 18, 3rd race, $2,032.44; Del, Aug. 8, 8th race, $2,032.44. ($4,064.88)

Amy H. Daney Bloodstock LLC—Pegster: Del, July 23, 4th race, $3,251.90.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Jigger: Cnl, July 30, 3rd race, $1,422.71.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Copper Penny Stables—Skylar's Brother: Del, July 17, 9th race, $812.98.

Lynn A. Ashby and William Gotwals—Re Markably: Cnl, July 12, 9th race, $1,016.22.

Robert Atkinson and Mary Atkinson—Minister: Del, July 11, 3rd race, $3,251.90.

Barak Farm—Barbados Bulldog: Cnl, July 12, 3rd race, $2,845.41. Kitty's Son: Cnl, July 26, 10th race, $812.98. Rocio: Cnl, Aug. 7, 7th race, $609.73. Safe Trust: Del, July 17, 6th race, $1,016.22. She Is Wisky: Del, July 16, 3rd race, $609.73. Vodkatini: Del, Aug. 6, 6th race, $1,625.95. ($7,520.02)

Barlar LLC—Call Me Andy: Cnl, July 16, 5th race, $1,016.22.

John Bashore and Albert Klerlein—Colonel Tully: Cnl, Aug. 14, 1st race, $609.73.

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Magic Wallet: Cnl, July 25, 1st race, $4,268.12; Del, Aug. 14, 7th race, $4,064.88. ($8,333)

Bell Gable Stable—Can Do: Del, July 17, 7th race, $1,016.22.

Joseph Besecker—Kilo Road: Cnl, July 31, 6th race, $2,032.44.

Best A Luck Farm LLC and Spendthrift Stallions LLC—Black Empire: Cnl, July 26, 10th race, $1,625.95.

Best Foot Forward Holdings Inc.—Wise Miss: Del, Aug. 9, 3rd race, $2,032.44.

Teresa L. Beste—Kaladin: Del, July 31, 4th race, $3,251.90. Navani: Cnl, Aug. 1, 2nd race, $1,016.22. ($4,268.12)

Big Lick Farm—Cavalier Cupid: Cnl, July 17, 10th race, $2,032.44.

Big Lick Farm and Erin Atkiss—Cap'n Dusty: Cnl, Aug. 9, 1st race, $1,016.22. Knockanara: Cnl, July 25, 7th race, $4,064.88; Cnl, Aug. 14, 8th race, $2,032.44. Lothario: Cnl, July 12, 4th race, $1,219.46; Cnl, Aug. 1, 6th race, $2,438.93. ($10,771.93)

Charles L. Biggs—Myluckeyvalentine: Del, July 17, 9th race, $406.49; Del, July 24, 1st race, $2,154.38; Del, Aug. 15, 1st race, $1,625.95. ($4,186.82)

Black Cloud Racing, LLC—Sometime: Cnl, July 25, 1st race, $3,048.66.

Black Fox Farm—Remembering Wilbur: Del, July 12, 7th race, $812.98.

Charles Blanford—Beautiful Blome: Del, July 10, 4th race, $3,251.90; Del, Aug. 7, 5th race, $3,251.90. Crabcakes N Beer: Del, Aug. 7, 1st race, $406.49. Momma's Lino: Del, Aug. 6, 5th race, $609.73. Tiz the Great: Del, July 16, 2nd race, $1,625.95; Del, Aug. 1, 3rd race, $812.98. ($9,958.95)

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Imagine It All: Cnl, Aug. 13, 6th race, $1,219.46. Owhatanite: Del, July 31, 5th race, $3,251.90. ($4,471.36)

Bonita Farm—Fightnomoreforever: Del, Aug. 13, 3rd race, $1,219.46. Mamba Mindset: Cnl, July 18, 4th race, $609.73; Cnl, Aug. 1, 8th race, $3,251.90. ($5,081.09)

Jerome C. Burdick—Only Maria: Cnl, July 18, 1st race, $1,138.17.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—Blue Kingdom: Cnl, July 30, 4th race, $3,251.90. Lundi Loot: Del, July 16, 2nd race, $4,552.66. Mr. Supreme: Del, July 26, 4th race, $5,690.83. Old Bay: Del, July 10, 5th race, $2,032.44. ($15,527.83)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Dale's Bluff: Del, July 12, 4th race, $5,690.83

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Brooke Bowman and Estate of R. Larry Johnson—By the Sey Shore: Cnl, July 16, 3rd race, $609.73.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Brother Lad: Del, Aug. 15, 1st race, $406.49. Mopo: Cnl, Aug. 6, 9th race, $2,032.44. ($2,438.93)

Bowman and Higgins Stable—No Walk Inthe Park: Del, July 19, 3rd race, $812.98; Del, Aug. 2, 8th race, $609.73. ($1,422.71)

Kim and Kelly Campbell—Secure's Hope: Cnl, July 30, 9th race, $5,406.28.

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: Del, July 17, 2nd race, $406.49.

Louis C. Carrico—Andras: Del, Aug. 14, 8th race, $1,625.95.

Wes Carter—Had to Have Him: Cnl, Aug. 9, 8th race, $2,032.44.

Karen Clark—Ful of Shenanigans: Del, July 4, 3rd race, $2,438.93.

Clover Hill Farm Inc.—Best Worst Idea: Del, July 12, 1st race, $406.49; Del, July 30, 1st race, $2,154.38. ($2,560.87)

Country Life Farm and Joseph Conroy—Fifth of June: Del, July 23, 6th race, $609.73.

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Moons LLC—Ariel Moon: Cnl, July 25, 8th race, $609.73.

Country Life Farm and Fifteen Royals Broodmare LLC—Queen of Wands: Cnl, Aug. 16, 3rd race, $2,845.41.

Country Life Farm and Grecian Maiden LLC—Schrader: Cnl, July 11, 3rd race, $1,016.22.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Divine Romance: Del, July 26, 8th race, $812.98.

Country Life Farm and Lunar Rille LLC—Lunar Lightning: Cnl, Aug. 7, 8th race, $1,016.22.

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—Put a Rock On It: Cnl, July 26, 6th race, $812.98; Del, Aug. 6, 5th race, $1,219.46. ($2,032.44)

Country Life Farm and Rue de Rivoli LLC—Next Episode: Cnl, Aug. 8, 8th race, $812.98.

Country Life Farm and Starr of Quality LLC—Fulmineo: Cnl, Aug. 16, 5th race, $1,016.22.

Daniel C. Crowley and Non Stop Stable—Doc's Miracle: Del, July 19, 2nd race, $2,845.41. Great Quality: Del, Aug. 14, 6th race, $3,251.90. Haileysfirstnotion: Del, July 30, 8th race, $4,064.88. ($10,162.19)

Dark Hollow Farm—Grey Biggsy: Del, July 24, 4th race, $3,251.90. Haleigh B: Del, Aug. 2, 5th race, $406.49. Maryland Moon: Cnl, Aug. 7, 1st race, $1,016.22. ($4,674.61)

Dark Hollow Farm, D. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber, et al—Destination: Cnl, July 11, 1st race, $1,016.22.

Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable LLC—Silver Trinket: Cnl, July 18, 8th race, $1,016.22; Cnl, Aug. 14, 7th race, $1,016.22. ($2,032.44)

Cynthia J. Darrah-Hipple—Lady Zeta: Cnl, July 19, 8th race, $2,438.93.

Rebecca B. Davis—Great Andrei: Del, July 17, 4th race, $2,032.44.

Kelly Lynn Deiter and Gordon Policastro—Mudslide: Del, July 23, 8th race, $1,016.22; Del, Aug. 15, 7th race, $4,064.88. ($5,081.10)

Designated Hitters Racing—Daddy Yankee: Cnl, July 10, 4th race, $812.98; Cnl, July 30, 2nd race, $1,625.95. Tik Tok Daddy: Del, Aug. 14, 6th race, $812.98. ($3,251.91)

Kathleen Dibben—Bodkin Creek: Del, July 23, 9th race, $2,438.93.

Mark Erlandson—Feather Wish: Del, July 30, 3rd race, $1,219.46.

Annette Eubanks and Daniel Eubanks—Band Camp: Del, July 10, 3rd race, $609.73. Stormy Irish Lass: Del, July 18, 8th race, $1,625.95. World On Fire: Del, July 31, 4th race, $609.73; Del, Aug. 16, 2nd race, $609.73. ($3,455.14)

Flying H Stables LLC—Peace Fire: Del, July 19, 5th race, $406.49.

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid's Legacy: Del, July 30, 6th race, $2,032.44.

Robert J. Gerczak—Mat Matters: Del, July 23, 5th race, $1,625.95.

Glenangus Farm LLC—Birdy Whisper: Cnl, July 25, 1st race, $508.11. Silk Suit: Del, Aug. 16, 5th race, $609.73. Song Time: Cnl, July 25, 6th race, $1,016.22. Starlifter: Cnl, July 24, 1st race, $5,406.28. ($7,540.34)

Sheryl Grant—Heaven's Got Fire: Del, July 9, 2nd race, $812.98.

Green Mount Farm—Takethefifth: Cnl, July 11, 5th race, $812.98.

Greenspring Mares LLC—Doesn'thurttoflirt: Cnl, July 23, 9th race, $2,032.44.

Richard J. Hackerman—Dominguez: Del, July 5, 3rd race, $1,219.46; Del, July 30, 7th race, $1,829.19. Elfuegomasbrilante: Del, July 30, 5th race, $1,219.46. Lachicafortequila: Del, July 5, 2nd race, $406.49; Del, July 24, 2nd race, $1,625.95. ($6,300.55)

Maria M. Haire—Noah Chance: Del, Aug. 16, 3rd race, $1,016.22.

Michael J. Harrison DVM—Jack's Legend: Cnl, July 31, 8th race, $2,032.44. Lino and Me: Del, July 17, 7th race, $2,032.44. ($4,064.88)

Nancy B. Heil—Karan's Notion: Del, July 11, 6th race, $1,625.95; Del, Aug. 7, 8th race, $3,251.90. ($4,877.85)

HH Stables LLC—Cross of Valor: Cnl, Aug. 15, 1st race, $1,016.22.

James Hibbert—Cactus: Cnl, July 16, 3rd race, $1,219.46.

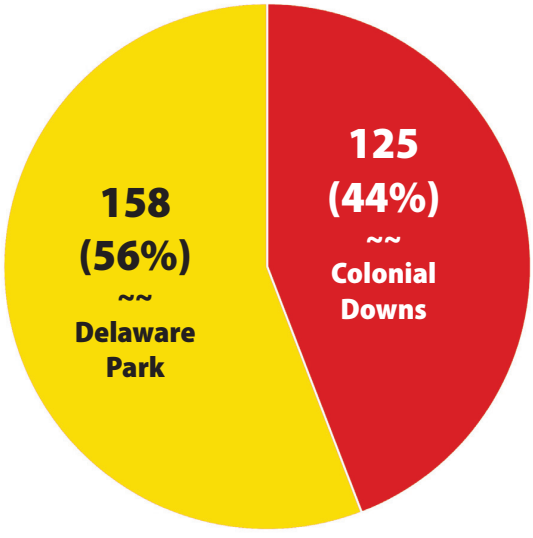
High Kings Racing LLC—Judith's Cross: Del, July 12, 3rd race, $1,625.95.

Hillwood Stable LLC—Battling Time: Cnl, Aug. 2, 5th race, $2,438.93.

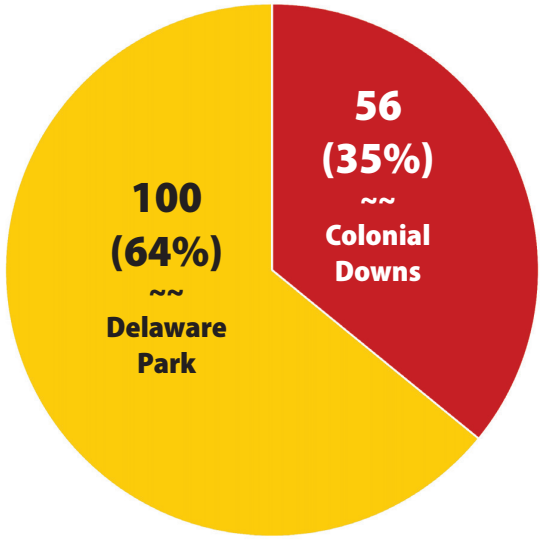
2025 Out of State Bonus Program for Registered Maryland Breds

for Colonial Downs and Delaware Park, July 4-Aug 16

Number of Maryland-breds who qualified for Breeder bonuses out-of-state in 2025

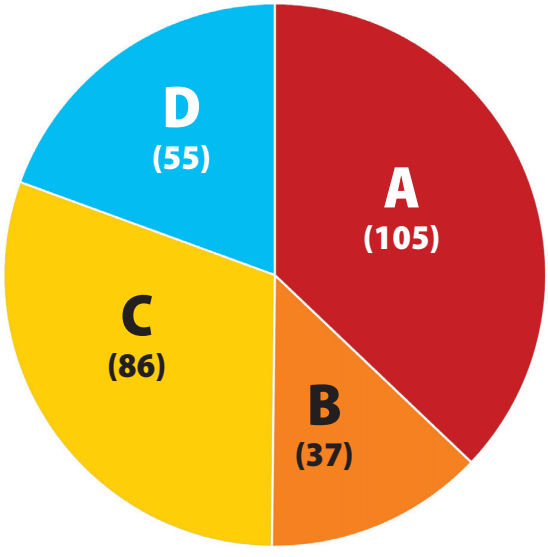


Number of Maryland-breds who qualified for Stallion bonuses out-of-state in 2025

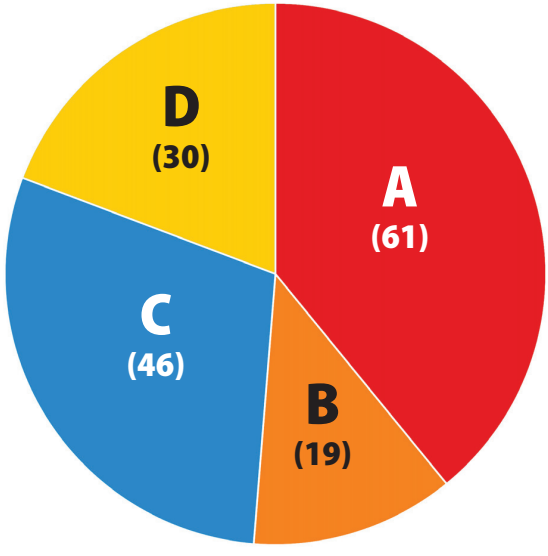


Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt—Majestic Blue: Del, Aug. 14, 7th race, $2,032.44.
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—Code of Silence: Del, July 26, 4th race, $2,845.41.
Timothy N. Hopkins—Notion in Motion: Cnl, Aug. 13, 3rd race, $1,016.22.
Kyle Horlacher—Crabs N Beer: Del, Aug. 7, 7th race, $2,032.44.
Kyle M. Horlacher and Charles Blanford—Fowl Mouth: Del, Aug. 6, 1st race, $3,414.50. Where's My Chew: Del, July 17, 1st race, $609.73; Del, Aug. 15, 5th race, $1,625.95. ($5,650.18)
Kyle M. Horlacher and Scott Clarke—Dirty Gold: Del, July 30, 3rd race, $2,438.93.
Michael and Debbie Horning—Cut From Class: Cnl, Aug. 16, 9th race, $1,016.22. My Sugar Boo: Cnl, July 23, 2nd race, $812.98. ($1,829.20)
Ann B. Jackson—Bourbon Time: Cnl, Aug. 6, 1st race, $609.73.
Catherine R. Jager—Boys Go to Jupiter: Cnl, Aug. 13, 2nd race, $812.98.
Jagger Inc.—Brightness: Del, July 5, 4th race, $1,625.95; Del, Aug. 8, 2nd race, $812.98. Fitness: Del, Aug. 1, 5th race, $609.73. Kick Startness: Del, July 5, 1st race, $1,625.95; Del, Aug. 6, 2nd race, $1,625.95. Nit Witness: Del, Aug. 6, 9th race, $1,219.46. Rowsie Express: Del, July 19, 8th race, $1,016.22. Sassafrassness: Del, Aug. 8, 2nd race, $3,251.90. ($11,788.14)
Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Witchyness: Del, July 19, 2nd race, $5,690.83.
Estate of R. Larry Johnson—Coringa: Cnl, Aug. 6, 8th race, $2,032.44. Fashionista: Del, July 24, 2nd race, $406.49. Great Heavens: Cnl, July 9, 2nd race, $4,064.88. Heard On The-street: Del, July 18, 7th race, $2,032.44; Del, Aug. 9, 7th race, $2,032.44. Hollywood Walk: Cnl, Aug. 9, 7th race, $4,064.88. Medagooch: Del, July 9, 2nd race, $3,251.90. Mr Jefferson: Cnl, Aug. 2, 2nd race, $609.73. Waittilmidnitehour: Cnl, Aug. 14, 7th race, $2,032.44. ($20,527.64)
R. Larry Johnson and Godolphin—Cesnola: Del, July 18, 6th race, $1,219.46.
Hope Haskell Jones—Moon Cache: Cnl, July 12, 5th race, $1,016.22.
Karmac Stables LLC—Frosty Maya: Cnl, July 17, 6th race, $406.49.
Harry Kassap LLC—Atlas Strong: Del, July 17, 7th race, $4,064.88. Magical Mondays: Del, July 5, 7th race, $4,064.88; Del, Aug. 7, 7th race, $1,016.22. ($9,145.98)
Owen Kiernan—Dina's Touch: Del, July 4, 8th race, $1,219.46.
Carl Lanier—Mosler Time: Del, Aug. 13, 7th race, $1,016.22. She's No Uncle: Cnl, July 23, 3rd race, $2,438.93. ($3,455.15)
Leaf Stable—Tacit Value: Del, July 31, 2nd race, $3,251.90.
Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Celtic Contender: Cnl, July 26, 9th race, $1,016.22.
Little Man Farm—Beltane: Cnl, Aug. 1, 5th race, $1,219.46. Chimney Sweep: Cnl, July 25, 5th race, $2,032.44. ($3,251.90)
James J. Loures—Hyteck Prince: Cnl, Aug. 16, 10th race, $3,251.90.
Dr. Frances Berkeley Luther and Berkeley Springs Farm—Superlastingsecret: Del, July 23, 9th race, $609.73.
Magic Carpet Racing—Elusive Image: Del, July 5, 3rd race, $2,438.93.
Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Dazzy: Cnl, July 19, 5th race, $2,032.44.
Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—Lucked In: Cnl, July 19, 1st race, $2,154.38.
Silvio Martin—Sincerito: Del, July 16, 1st race, $406.49; Del, July 31, 1st race, $812.98. ($1,219.47)
Mary E. Eppler Racing Stable and A. Leonard Pineau—If I Were You: Del, July 9, 6th race, $609.73; Del, July 30, 5th race, $609.73. ($1,219.46)
James F. McIngvale—Happyflyer: Cnl, July 30, 2nd race, $812.98. Runsweetly: Del, July 23, 6th race, $1,219.46; Del, Aug. 6, 9th race, $609.73. ($2,642.17)
Mezza Luna Farm LLC—In the Dance: Del, July 12, 8th race, $609.73; Del, July 30, 4th race, $812.98; Del, Aug. 13, 1st race, $2,438.93. ($3,861.64)
Mike Dalton LLC—Sneaking Suspicion: Cnl, July 17, 4th race, $609.73.
Mikelle Farm and Marilyn Morales—Missy Boss: Del, Aug. 7, 3rd race, $812.98.
Bryan B. Minnich—King's River: Cnl, Aug. 9, 3rd race, $2,032.44. My Little Hopper: Del, July 10, 2nd race, $853.62. ($2,886.06)
Murmur Farm—Meg: Cnl, July 19, 5th race, $1,016.22. Spy Wars: Del, July 17, 3rd race, $3,251.90. ($4,268.12)
Paul F. Neiber and Rosemarie Neiber—Thirst for Hope: Cnl, July 18, 1st race, $4,552.66.
Northwoods Stable—Mission North: Cnl, July 11, 8th race, $1,016.22; Cnl, Aug. 16, 5th race, $4,064.88. ($5,081.10)
No Guts No Glory Farm—Bigdaddysboy: Cnl, July 25, 3rd race, $406.49. Do It for Michael: Del, July 18, 5th race, $4,064.88. Green Eyed Monster: Del, Aug. 9, 5th race, $2,032.44. Irish Hero: Del, July 5, 6th race, $1,625.95; Del, Aug. 15, 8th race, $1,625.95. Itsamonstamash: Cnl, July 17, 9th race, $1,016.22; Del, Aug. 8, 6th race, $2,032.44. ($12,804.37)
Clarke Ohrstrom—Beautiful Gorgeous: Cnl, July 24, 2nd race, $2,032.44. Granuaile: Cnl, July 23, 5th race, $3,251.90. Karate Island: Cnl, July 30, 3rd race, $2,032.44. ($7,316.78)
Charles V. Parker—Mose Perfect: Cnl, Aug. 2, 2nd race, $2,438.93.
D. Scott Peck—Rehoboth Avenue: Del, Aug. 14, 4th race, $2,438.93.
A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Cnl, July 9, 7th race, $1,016.22; Cnl, July 31, 3rd race, $2,032.44. ($3,048.66)
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Change My World: Cnl, July 24, 5th race, $1,016.22; Cnl, Aug. 13, 4th race, $1,016.22. ($2,032.44)
Casey Pinkard—Skittliedat: Del, July 17, 5th race, $1,219.46.
Joel Politi—Jolly Boss: Cnl, Aug. 16, 4th race, $2,438.93. Nola Boss: Cnl, July 17, 4th race, $2,438.93. ($4,877.86)
Ponder Hill Inc.—Barzini: Cnl, July 9, 6th race, $2,032.44. High Heel Native: Del, Aug. 8, 1st race, $2,438.93. Our Day Will Come: Del, Aug. 1, 3rd race, $3,251.90. ($7,723.27)
Mr. and Mrs. A. John Price—Sheezahotmess: Del, July 10, 6th race, $1,219.46; Del, Aug. 14, 4th race, $609.73. ($1,829.19)
Vivian E. Rall—Icandothat: Del, July 31, 5th race, $609.73.
Maria Danette Remedio—Military Grade: Cnl, July 26, 2nd race, $3,251.90.
Eric A. Rizer and Nancy M. Rizer—Slam Notion: Cnl, July 12, 9th race, $4,064.88. Slewpersstitus: Cnl, July 9, 1st race, $5,690; Cnl, Aug. 2, 3rd race, $2,032.44 ($11,787.32)
Rolling Meadows Farm—Bond's Belle: Del, Aug. 7, 2nd race, $1,625.95. Christmas Jones: Cnl, July 31, 1st race, $1,422.71. ($3,048.66)
Thomas J. and Tara L Rooney—Amazing Bernie: Del, Aug. 13, 9th race, $609.73.
Timothy J. Rooney—B Determined: Cnl, Aug. 14, 8th race, $4,064.88. Dark Pool: Cnl, July 16, 4th race, $1,219.46; Cnl, Aug. 15, 5th race, $2,438.93. ($7,723.27)
Edward A. Seltzer and Justin J. Nixon—Lil Sebastian: Del, Aug. 7, 1st race, $812.98.
Shamrock Farm—Barbadian Runner: Cnl, July 12, 9th race, $2,032.44; Cnl, Aug. 9, 5th race, $2,032.44. Just for the Money: Del, July 26, 3rd race, $812.98; Del, Aug. 14, 6th race, $1,625.95. ($6,503.81)
Hamilton A. Smith—Feels So Right: Del, Aug. 6, 1st race, $853.62.
South Branch Equine LLC—Sharmin: Cnl, July 10, 6th race, $2,438.93.
James F. Stevenson—Sweet and Feisty: Del, Aug. 9, 2nd race, $812.98.
Robert Mason Stone III—Lady Lena: Del, Aug. 14, 4th race, $1,219.46.
Strongline Thoroughbreds LLC—Dancing Denae: Del, July 23, 2nd race, $1,707.25; Del, Aug. 6, 1st race, $1,707.25. English Daddy: Del, Aug. 16, 4th race, $1,625.95. ($5,040.45)
Super C Racing, Inc—Dance for Green: Del, Aug. 7, 6th race, $406.49. Tuned to the Moon: Del, Aug. 8, 2nd race, $1,625.95. ($2,032.44)

Breakdown by level for Maryland-breds who qualified for Breeder bonuses out-of-state in 2025



Breakdown by level for Maryland-breds who qualified for Stallion bonuses out-of-state in 2025



Bonuses were awarded using a four-tiered points system, which reflected Maryland purse equivalents.
Level A – No price; CLM $50,000 & Up; B – CLM $30,000-$45,000; C – CLM $16.000-$25,000; D – CLM $5,000-$12,500.

Super C Racing Inc. and Mario Guatemala—Bollo de Crema: Del, Aug. 7, 2nd race, $406.49.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Feeling Woozy: Del, July 10, 7th race, $4,064.88. Formal Affair: Del, July 9, 1st race, $812.98; Del, July 19, 9th race, $812.98. Lovely Charm: Del, July 12, 2nd race, $609.73. Ribbonsinherhair: Del, Aug. 7, 3rd race, $1,625.95. ($7,926.52)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Hardspun Reason: Cnl, July 12, 8th race, $1,016.22.

Thomas L. Teal—Rad Paisley: Del, July 5, 6th race, $812.98.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Countryclub Couple: Cnl, July 16, 1st race, $406.49. Lifelovenlaughter: Cnl, Aug. 16, 9th race, $4,064.88. Solving Progress: Cnl, Aug. 15, 8th race, $1,625.95. ($6,097.32)

The Stables at Mezza Luna LLC—Pichu: Del, July 26, 1st race, $2,438.93.

Thornmar Farm LLC—Born Charmer: Del, July 11, 4th race, $609.73. Fair Trade: Cnl, July 17, 6th race, $812.98. Goodbye Note: Del, July 24, 7th race, $4,064.88. Great Kisser: Del, Aug. 8, 5th race, $1,219.46. Kinda Krazy: Cnl, July 18, 1st race, $1,625.95; Cnl, Aug. 7, 5th race, $1,625.95. Square Slice: Del, July 10, 1st race, $3,251.90; Del, Aug. 6, 8th race, $1,016.22. ($14,227.07)

Marie Trombetta and Commonwealth New Era Racing—Bucaro: Cnl, July 30, 8th race, $1,016.22.

2500 Determined Holdings—Grayson's Girl: Cnl, July 12, 5th race, $2,032.44. Maclean's Rook: Cnl, July 25, 5th race, $1,016.22. ($3,048.66)

Two Legends Farm—Devil Pays in Gold: Del, July 9, 8th race, $609.73. Padrino's Gold: Del, July 12, 1st race, $2,154.38. ($2,764.11)

Two Legends Farm and Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Amie's Symphony: Cnl, Aug. 6, 2nd race, $4,064.88.

Walter N. Vieser II—Intel Agent: Cnl, July 23, 5th race, $609.73.

Katharine Merryman Voss—Divine Works: Cnl, July 17, 9th race, $2,032.44.

Mary P. Voss—Zevon: Cnl, July 23, 4th race, $5,406.28.

David H. Wade—Ma Ma Ma My Vekoma: Cnl, Aug. 6, 2nd race, $1,016.22. Rominski: Del, July 10, 3rd race, $1,219.46. ($2,235.68)

Maureen Wade—Honor the Truth: Del, July 19, 1st race, $406.49.

Estate of Linda M. Walls—Concrete Faze: Del, July 12, 2nd race, $2,438.93.

Susan Wantz—Harmonizing: Del, July 18, 8th race, $406.49. On a Proud Note: Cnl, July 16, 1st race, $812.98; Cnl, Aug. 6, 4th race, $1,625.95. ($2,845.42)

Warning Drums Racing LLC—Diane Lee: Cnl, July 23, 3rd race, $1,219.46; Cnl, Aug. 15, 6th race, $1,219.46. Happy This Day: Del, Aug. 6, 7th race, $1,219.46. Radiant Tones: Cnl, Aug. 15, 5th race, $1,219.46. ($4,877.84)

Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC and Greenspring Mares LLC—Boujee Bubblez: Cnl, July 17, 11th race, $1,016.22; Cnl, Aug. 6, 9th race, $1,016.22. Flamenco Star: Del, July 24, 4th race, $1,625.95. Thisishowwedoit: Cnl, July 9, 1st race, $1,016.22. ($4,674.61)

Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC and Gregory Caliwag—Railroad Inn: Del, July 31, 4th race, $1,219.46.

John E. Williamson III—Ournationonparade: Del, July 12, 8th race, $2,438.93.

Winding Creek Farm—No Cents Non Cents: Cnl, Aug. 14, 4th race, $1,219.46.

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—Just Piltored: Cnl, Aug. 2, 3rd race, $4,064.88.

Stallion bonuses

ALLIANCE (Fightnomoreforever: Del, Aug. 13, 3rd race, $436.36): Lawrence Karp.

BANDBOX (Band Camp: Del, July 10, 3rd race, $218.18): Northview Stallion Station.

BARBADOS (Barbadian Runner: Cnl, July 12, 9th race, $727.27; Cnl, Aug. 9, 5th race, $727.27. Barbados Bulldog: Cnl, July 12, 3rd race, $727.27. Just for the Money: Del, July 26, 3rd race, $290.91; Del, Aug. 14, 6th race, $581.82. Mat Matters: Del, July 23, 5th race, $581.82): Shamrock Farm—$3,636.36.

BLOFELD (Beautiful Blome: Del, July 10, 4th race, $1,163.64; Del, Aug. 7, 5th race, $1,163.64. Bond's Belle: Del, Aug. 7, 2nd race, $581.82. Christmas Jones: Cnl, July 31, 1st race, $363.64. Code of Silence: Del, July 26, 4th race, $727.27. Crabs N Beer: Del, Aug. 7, 7th race, $727.27. Cross of Valor: Cnl, Aug. 15, 1st race, $363.64. Fowl Mouth: Del, Aug. 6, 1st race, $872.73. Goodbye Note: Del, July 24, 7th race, $1,454.55. Majestic Blue: Del, Aug. 14, 7th race, $727.27. Meg: Cnl, July 19, 5th race, $363.64. Only Maria: Cnl, July 18, 1st race, $290.91. Spy Wars: Del, July 17, 3rd race, $872.73. Square Slice: Del, July 10, 1st race, $1,163.64; Del, Aug. 6, 8th race, $363.64): Blofeld Syndicate—$10,745.03.

BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Time: Cnl, Aug. 6, 1st race, $218.18. Jigger: Cnl, July 30, 3rd race, $363.64. Skylar's Brother: Del, July 17, 9th race, $290.91): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$872.73.

CAL NATION (Ournationonparade: Del, July 12, 8th race, $872.73): Cal Nation Syndicate.

DIVINING ROD (Dazzy: Cnl, July 19, 5th race, $727.27. Divine Romance: Del, July 26, 8th race, $290.91. Divine Works: Cnl, July 17, 9th race, $727.27. Icandothat: Del, July 31, 5th race, $218.18. Magic Wallet: Cnl, July 25, 1st race, $1,090.91; Del, Aug. 14, 7th race, $1,454.55. Queen of Wands: Cnl, Aug. 16, 3rd race, $727.27. Sweet and Feisty: Del, Aug. 9, 2nd race, $290.91. Vodkatini: Del, Aug. 6, 6th race, $581.82): Divining Rod Syndicate—$6,109.09.

EDITORIAL (Atlas Strong: Del, July 17, 7th race, $1,454.55): Climax Stallions LLC.

FIRST MONDAYS (Blue Kingdom: Cnl, July 30, 4th race, $1,163.64. Dancing Denae: Del, July 23, 2nd race, $436.36; Del, Aug. 6, 1st race, $436.36. English Daddy: Del, Aug. 16, 4th race, $581.82. Lundi Loot: Del, July 16, 2nd race, $1,163.64. Magical Mondays: Del, July 5, 7th race, $1,454.55; Del, Aug. 7, 7th race, $363.64. Mr. Supreme: Del, July 26, 4th race, $1,454.55. Starlifter: Cnl, July 24, 1st race, $1,454.55): First Mondays Partnership—$8,509.11.

FORCE THE PASS (Flamenco Star: Del, July 24, 4th race, $581.82. Had to Have Him: Cnl, Aug. 9, 8th race, $727.27): Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC—$1,309.09.

FRIESAN FIRE (Peace Fire: Del, July 19, 5th race, $145.45. World On Fire: Del, July 31, 4th race, $218.18; Del, Aug. 16, 2nd race, $218.18): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$581.81.

GOLDEN LAD (Amazing Bernie: Del, Aug. 13, 9th race, $218.18. Brother Lad: Del, Aug. 15, 1st race, $145.45. Itsamonstamash: Cnl, July 17, 9th race, $363.64; Del, Aug. 8, 6th race, $727.27. Old Bay: Del, July 10, 5th race, $727.27. Padrino's Gold: Del, July 12, 1st race, $581.82. Remembering Wilbur: Del, July 12, 7th race, $290.91. Rowsie Express: Del, July 19, 8th race, $363.64. Where's My Chew: Del, July 17, 1st race, $218.18; Del, Aug. 15, 5th race, $581.82. Wise Miss: Del, Aug. 9, 3rd race, $727.27. Witchyness: Del, July 19, 2nd race, $1,454.55): Golden Lad Syndicate—$6,400.

GREAT NOTION (Battling Time: Cnl, Aug. 2, 5th race, $872.73. Best Worst Idea: Del, July 12, 1st race, $145.45; Del, July 30, 1st race, $581.82. Brightness: Del, July 5, 4th race, $581.82; Del, Aug. 8, 2nd race, $290.91. Great Heavens: Cnl, July 9, 2nd race, $1,454.55. Great Kisser: Del, Aug. 8, 5th race, $436.36. Great Quality: Del, Aug. 14, 6th race, $1,163.64. Haileysfirstnotion: Del, July 30, 8th race, $1,454.55. Intel Agent: Cnl, July 23, 5th race, $218.18. Jack's Legend: Cnl, July 31, 8th race, $727.27. Just Piltored: Cnl, Aug. 2, 3rd race, $1,454.55. Karan's Notion: Del, July 11, 6th race, $581.82; Del, Aug. 7, 8th race, $1,163.64. Kick Startness: Del, July 5, 1st race, $581.82; Del, Aug. 6, 2nd race, $581.82. Mopo: Cnl, Aug. 6, 9th race, $727.27. Noah Chance: Del, Aug. 16, 3rd race, $363.64. Notion in Motion: Cnl, Aug. 13, 3rd race, $363.64. Rominski: Del, July 10, 3rd race, $436.36. Slam Notion: Cnl, July 12, 9th race, $1,454.55. Slewperstitus: Cnl, July 9, 1st race, $1,454.55; Cnl, Aug. 2, 3rd race, $727.27. Sneaking Suspicion: Cnl, July 17, 4th race, $218.18): Great Notion Syndicate—$18,036.39.

HOLY BOSS (Beautiful Gorgeous: Cnl, July 24, 2nd race, $727.27. Crossland: Cnl, July 9, 7th race, $363.64; Cnl, July 31, 3rd race, $727.27. Granuaile: Cnl, July 23, 5th race, $872.73. Jolly Boss: Cnl, Aug. 16, 4th race, $872.73. Missy Boss: Del, Aug. 7, 3rd race, $290.91. Nola Boss: Cnl, July 17, 4th race, $872.73): Holy Boss Syndicate—$4,727.28.

HOPPERTUNITY (Fair Trade: Cnl, July 17, 6th race, $290.91. My Little Hopper: Del, July 10, 2nd race, $218.18. Re Markably: Cnl, July 12, 9th race, $363.64. Thirst for Hope: Cnl, July 18, 1st race, $1,163.64): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$2,036.37.

IMAGINING (Bigdaddysboy: Cnl, July 25, 3rd race, $145.45. Elusive Image: Del, July 5, 3rd race, $872.73. Imagine It All: Cnl, Aug. 13, 6th race, $436.36. In the Dance: Del, July 12, 8th race, $218.18; Del, July 30, 4th race, $290.91; Del, Aug. 13, 1st race, $872.73. Intrepid's Legacy: Del, July 30, 6th race, $727.27. Owhatanite: Del, July 31, 5th race, $872.73. Zevon: Cnl, July 23, 4th race, $1,454.55): Imagining Syndicate—$5,890.91.

IRISH WAR CRY (Born Charmer: Del, July 11, 4th race, $218.18. Celtic Contender: Cnl, July 26, 9th race, $363.64. Dance for Green: Del, Aug. 7, 6th race, $145.45. Dina's Touch: Del, July 4, 8th race, $436.36. Feeling Woozy: Del, July 10, 7th race, $1,454.55. Fifth of June: Del, July 23, 6th race, $218.18. Green Eyed Monster: Del, Aug. 9, 5th race, $727.27. Irish Hero: Del, July 5, 6th race, $581.82; Del, Aug. 15, 8th race, $581.82. King's River: Cnl, Aug. 9, 3rd race, $727.27. Lovely Charm: Del, July 12, 2nd race, $218.18. Stormy Irish Lass: Del, July 18, 8th race, $581.82. Tuned to the Moon: Del, Aug. 8, 2nd race, $581.82): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$6,836.36.

KOBE'S BACK (Mamba Mindset: Cnl, July 18, 4th race, $218.18; Cnl, Aug. 1, 8th race, $872.73): Bonita Farm—$1,090.91.

LONG RIVER (Doc's Miracle: Del, July 19, 2nd race, $727.27): Long River Syndicate.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Lucked In: Cnl, July 19, 1st race, $581.82. Myluckeyvalentine: Del, July 17, 9th race, $145.45; Del, July 24, 1st race, $581.82; Del, Aug. 15, 1st race, $581.82): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$1,890.91.

MOSLER (Ariel Moon: Cnl, July 25, 8th race, $218.18. Bollo de Crema: Del, Aug. 7, 2nd race, $145.45. Can Do: Del, July 17, 7th race, $363.64. Moon Cache: Cnl, July 12, 5th race, $363.64. Mose Perfect: Cnl, Aug. 2, 2nd race, $872.73. Mosler Time: Del, Aug. 13, 7th race, $363.64. Next Episode: Cnl, Aug. 8, 8th race, $290.91. Put a Rock On It: Cnl, July 26, 6th race, $290.91. Put a Rock On It: Del, Aug. 6, 5th race, $436.36. Safe Trust: Del, July 17, 6th race, $363.64. Sharmin: Cnl, July 10, 6th race, $872.73): Mosler Syndicate—$4,581.83.

OUTFLANKER (Beltane: Cnl, Aug. 1, 5th race, $436.36. Chimney Sweep: Cnl, July 25, 5th race, $727.27): Outflanker Syndicate—$1,163.63.

STREET MAGICIAN (By the Sey Shore: Cnl, July 16, 3rd race, $218.18. Dale's Bluff: Del, July 12, 4th race, $1,454.55. Fashionista: Del, July 24, 2nd race, $145.45. Heard On The-street: Del, July 18, 7th race, $727.27; Del, Aug. 9, 7th race, $727.27. Kaladin: Del, July 31, 4th race, $872.73. Secure's Hope: Cnl, July 30, 9th race, $1,454.55): Estate of R. Larry Johnson—$5,600.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Bad Temper: Del, July 17, 2nd race, $145.45. Concrete Faze: Del, July 12, 2nd race, $872.73. Minister: Del, July 11, 3rd race, $872.73. Superlastingsecret: Del, July 23, 9th race, $218.18): Country Life Farm—$2,109.09.

UNCLE LINO (Do It for Michael: Del, July 18, 5th race, $1,454.55. Feels So Right: Del, Aug. 6, 1st race, $218.18. Lady Lena: Del, Aug. 14, 4th race, $436.36. Lino and Me: Del, July 17, 7th race, $727.27. She's No Uncle: Cnl, July 23, 3rd race, $872.73): Northview Stallion Station—$3,709.09.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2025

(through October 7)

1. Mindframe	$1,197,220	11. Heard On Thestreet	$188,522
2. Barbadian Runner	566,245	12. Onyx Ten	183,000
3. Seismic Beauty	416,840	13. Just Philtored	174,430
4. Future Is Now	366,000	14. Safe Trust	174,210
5. Quint's Brew	260,000	15. Hollywood Walk	174,000
6. Post Time	239,190	16. Cluck Cluck	162,950
7. Slam Notion	209,950	17. Romeo	161,260
8. Splendora	202,400	18. Mission North	159,200
9. Lifelovenlaughter	192,300	19. Concrete Faze	154,450
10. Passion Rules	189,600	20. Haileysfirstnotion	151,930

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THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **November 2025** -

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Gold Trust captures first stakes victory in Joey P. Handicap

Ballybrit Stable's homebred turf specialist Gold Trust continued his love affair with the Monmouth Park turf course Sept. 14, securing the seventh running of the Joey P. Handicap for New Jersey-breds. The victory marked a milestone for the 4-year-old gelding, winning the first stakes race of his career.

Bred by his trainer, veteran horseman Mike Dini, Gold Trust once again demonstrated the tactical versatility that has become his hallmark. Breaking sharply from the gate, he vied for the early lead along the inside rail before jockey Francisco Martinez smartly took him back off the pace to secure a stalking position behind the frontrunners.

As the field turned for home, Gold Trust swung three-wide into the clear and surged past the dueling leaders Perrotto and Smithwick's Spice, drawing off powerfully to win by a decisive length and a half at the wire after 5 furlongs in :56.66. The performance underscored his growing maturity and finishing kick, attributes that have carried him to back-to-back victories and three wins from his last four starts.

By Handsome Mike out of the Touch Gold mare Taty's Gold, Gold Trust has steadily climbed the ranks this season to emerge as one of Monmouth Park's most promising turf sprinters.

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Bingo's Birkin cruises in Pinot Grigio Handicap

Gerardo Franco's Bingo's Birkin achieved her first career stakes victory with a 2-length win in the Pinot Grigio Handicap Sept. 13 at Monmouth Park. Jockey Paco Lopez took the lead immediately with the daughter of Sea Wizard. After fending off some early challenges from longshot Allison Park, she was never in danger throughout the race.

The time for the 5 furlongs over a firm turf course was 56.97 seconds.

"I remember the last time I rode her, she was close to the lead, but the early fractions were a bit slow. She managed to overcome that and win anyway," said Lopez. "This time, [trainer] Jose Sanchez told me, 'If you break well, let her go.' Once she made the lead like she did in this race, I knew she would be tough to catch."

Bingo's Birkin easily outperformed the other 10 Jersey-breds in the field, securing her fourth win in nine lifetime starts and improving her record to four wins out of six races on grass.

"As she has matured, she has been getting better. After winning that open allowance race in her most recent start, her confidence grew," said Sanchez. "In the first few races this year, we were in the wrong races because there weren't suitable conditions for her. We tried her on dirt, but she didn't like it. Then, I had to run her in an open stakes race because there wasn't anything else available. That field was tough.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

"Then, in her last start, she won the open allowance race convincingly. This race matched her perfectly, and it feels good to get her that first stakes win. She has come a long way in her past two starts."

Bingo's Birkin was bred by Colonial Farms out of the winning Tale of the Cat mare Futures Market.

Prancing Horse Farm wins 2025 Monmouth Park owner's title

In a standout season at Monmouth Park, Prancing Horse Farm – owned by Joseph and Gayle Ioia – clinched the coveted leading owner's title, capping a campaign defined by persistence, growth, and deep ties to New Jersey breeding.

As the 2025 Monmouth Park meet wrapped up Sept. 14, Prancing Horse Farm emerged at the top of the standings with 14 wins. That achievement was underscored by the fact that the Ioias' stable consists entirely of New Jersey-breds.

Joseph Ioia, who hails from Brooklyn, purchased a 65-acre farm in Colts Neck in 2019 – and that property has become the heart of Prancing Horse Farm. Today, the operation houses about 55 horses (with roughly 20 in training) under one roof.

Ioia's interest in racing began organically – after acquiring the farm property, he slowly became immersed in horse ownership. Over time, he forged a partnership with trainer Chuck Spina, which has lasted nearly two decades. A few horses are managed by Sergio Rabadan, who also serves as the farm manager.

One early breakthrough was a mare named Bustin Out, who won nine of 19 starts including two stakes wins, and brought recognition to Ioia's stable. According to Ioia, before 2022 the stable was more opportunistic in its purchases and breeding approach; it was in and after 2022 when more deliberate breeding and acquisitions began to pay dividends.

In 2022, Ioia and Spina (then part-owner) won the owner's title. He has since been in the top two in terms of earnings at Monmouth for multiple years, including second-place finishes in 2023 and 2024.

Top-10 New Jersey-breds at Monmouth Park meet

The following is a list of the top 10 highest-earning New Jersey-breds during the 50-day Monmouth Park meet from May 10 to September 14.

Horse	*Breeder*	*Earnings*
Riding Pretty	Holly Crest Farm	$147,250
Gold Trust	Mike Dini	142,050
Boardwalk Jack	Colonial Farms	113,625
Jewel of the Ocean	Colonial Farms	111,200
Wildncrazynight	New Farm	102,000
Smuggler's Gold	Hope Haskell Jones & Isabelle de Tomasoi	96,969
Bingo's Birkin	Colonial Farms	96,700
Molly's a Bullet	ARM Consulting	95,875
Allison Park	ABL Stable	95,575
One Fine Wine	Barrister Breeding LLC	87,500

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Holly Crest Farm's 5-year-old mare Riding Pretty won back-to-back handicaps at Monmouth in 2025, the Jersey Girl on the turf in July and the Charles Hesse III (above) against males in August.

Record-Setting NYRA Bets Haskell Day, uptick in attendance as Monmouth Park closes out 2025 season

Record days for the NYRA Bets Haskell Stakes and Mother's Day highlighted the 49-day Monmouth Park meet, the track's 80th season, that concluded on Sunday.

The crowd of 41,876 for the $1-million, Grade 1 NYRA Bets Haskell July 19 was the largest since 2015 and produced a record total handle for a non-Breeders' Cup event of $21,999,962. It marked the third straight year that a total handle record was set on Haskell Day.

The May 11 crowd of 14,687 also set a record for Mother's Day.

Those two days contributed to a slight increase in attendance, with a daily average of 6,650 compared to 6,510 in 2024.

"We're grateful to our fans who continue to make Monmouth Park a summer destination," said Dennis Drazin, Chairman and CEO of Darby Development, the operator of the racetrack. "Our goal is and always will be to make Monmouth Park a premier racing and entertainment venue. With that in mind, tomorrow the work begins anew as we look to 2026 and beyond."

The meet saw Paco Lopez, who currently leads the nation in wins, capture his 12th riding title overall and record seventh straight. Prancing Horse Farm (Joe and Gayle Ioia) emerged as the leading owner, Jorge Delgado was the leading trainer, and Christian Maragh was the leading apprentice.

Average total handle was $3,641,403. Average on-track handle was $341,340.

Prior to this year, Monmouth Park had four straight years of increases in total and on-track handle.

With one day cancelled due to weather, Monmouth Park conducted 454 races this year compared to 488 in 2024.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

November 2025

President's message

Hello everyone and Happy Holidays.

We are getting close to the time when you must select new officers of the NCTA. Please send me your nominations to bherring@rtelco.net. I look forward to all who are willing to participate in the NCTA.

Should you have information that NCTA can share with the other members please forward to me as well.

Please remember to join NCTA for 2026.

Congratulations to all the winners from 2025…

Bonnie Herring
NCTA President

Race Results

TAPROOM – WINNER at Fort Erie, Sept. 9; 7 furlongs on the turf. Course Firm. Final time 1:26.07. Taproom set the pace, had the lead on the far turn, mild pressure in stretch to be first at the finish line. Trainer: Julie Mathes. Jockey: K. Johnson.

NCTA Connection: William Thompson Jr.

COME ON ARLENE – WINNER at Thistledown, Sept. 9; 6 furlongs on the dirt. Track Fast. Final time 1:14.41. Come On Arlene, encouraged early, had a slight lead at the quarter pole, drew ahead in the stretch with firm handling for the 5½-length win. Trainer: Timothy Hamm. Jockey: R. Bowen.

NCTA Connection: Carolina Cooper

DOUBLE TOUGH TIGER – WINNER at Camarero Race Track, Aug. 31; 1 1/16 miles on the dirt. Track Fast. Final time 1:45.84. Double Tough Tiger was slightly slow at start, led into the stretch to be first at wire to win. Trainer: Jason Lisboa. Jockey: J. Velez.

NCTA Connection: Elizabeth Muirhead

ZIPPIN PIPPIN – WINNER at Sweetwater County Fair, Aug. 22; 6 furlongs on the dirt. Track Fast. Final time 1:15.36. Zippin Pippin took control on the turn, was first to the finish line for the win. Trainer: Tori Hadley. Jockey: N. Teeter.

NCTA Connection: Nancy Shuford

North Carolina
Thoroughbred Association

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ncthoroughbred@gmail.com
436 Sam Lowe Road
Siler City, NC 27344

Bonnie Herring, president; Linda Epley, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer
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MID-ATLANTIC THOROUGHBRED

Hitting the Board

July 29 – September 25, 2025

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Results
7/29/2025	Double Trouble Tiger	Camarero Race Track	Beth Muirhead	2nd
6/13/2025	Nabokov	Belterra Park	Frank Batten	3rd
8/2/2025	Foxxy Cleopatra	Ellis Park	Nancy Shuford	2nd
8/3/2025	Motion Granted	Woodbine	William Thompson Jr.	2nd
8/6/2025	Come On Arlene	Thistledown	Caroline Cooper	3rd
8/7/2025	Tiz Wicked Strong	Horseshoe Indianpolis	Denise Walsh - Never Better Farms	3rd
8/9/2025	Tiz Sweet Emotion	Belterra Park	Denise Walsh - Never Better Farms	2nd
8/22/2025	Motion Granted	Colonial Downs	William Thompson Jr.	2nd
8/22/2025	Zippin Pippin	Sweetwater County Fair	Nancy Shuford	WINNER
8/28/2025	Foxxy Cleopatra	Kentucky Downs	Nancy Shuford	3rd
8/31/2025	Double Trouble Tiger	Camarero Race Track	Beth Muirhead	WINNER
9/8/2025	Rockaway Reef	Horseshoe Indianpolis	Denise Walsh - Never Better Farms	3rd
9/9/2025	Taproom	Fort Erie	William Thompson Jr.	WINNER
9/9/2025	Come On Arlene	Thistledown	Caroline Cooper	WINNER
9/15/2025	In Your Life	Louisiana Downs	Nancy Shuford	2nd
9/20/2025	Zippin Pippin	Sweetwater County Fair	Nancy Shuford	2nd
9/25/2025	Tiz Wicked Strong	Horseshoe Indianpolis	Denise Walsh - Never Better Farms	2nd

NORTH CAROLINA
THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

YOUR NAME OR FARM NAME_____

HORSES IN TRAINING - 2025

Please list the horses you have BRED or OWN that are in training or racing. The Association will put them into our stable on Daily Racing Form. We will keep up with them through this medium and have news for the association and for the Mid-Atlantic. We will only use horses that finish in the money.

This will let us know what our members are doing on the racing front and inform everyone about your successes.

I will still have to trust you to keep us informed regarding the breeding. I love receiving news on how the horses are doing, who you are breeding to, and how you did at the sales. It is hard to find the time to sit down and send me this information, BUT PLEASE TRY.

Please take the time to fill this out for your racing stock. Please list all horses, even the ones I already have, so I can keep our stable updated. Use another page if you need more room.

Bred/Own/Both

HORSE'S NAME_____ DAM_____ DOB____ ☐☐☐

HORSE'S NAME_____ DAM_____ DOB____ ☐☐☐

HORSE'S NAME_____ DAM_____ DOB____ ☐☐☐

HORSE'S NAME_____ DAM_____ DOB____ ☐☐☐

HORSE'S NAME_____ DAM_____ DOB____ ☐☐☐

Mail to: Bonnie Herring
NCTA
436 Sam Lowe Road
Siler City, NC 27344

Or send via E-mail at:
nethoroughbred@gmail.com

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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☐Jr. MEMBER - AGE 21 UNDER @ -0 ☐FARM @ $80.00 ☐CORPORATE SPONSOR @ $250.00
☐SPONSOR @ $140.00
☐INDIVIDUAL @ $55.00
☐NON-PROFIT HORSE ASSOCIATIONS @ $20.00(covers cost of magazines)

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(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

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☐Lay-ups☐Race Training☐Racing Fan ☐Showing ☐Show Training
☐Hunter/Jumper ☐Eventing☐Dressage☐Pleasure ☐Other_____

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MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Bonnie Herring,**
436 Sam Lowe Road, Siler City, NC 27344

Thank you for your support.

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

November 2025
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

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2025 PA Day at the Races

By Averie Levanti

Averie Levanti

Pennsylvania's Day at the Races at Parx on Friday, Sept. 19, lived up to its billing, offering a full card of competitive action that celebrated the strength of the state's breeding and racing program. The 11-race card featured over $1 million in purses, breeder and stallion awards. With packed fields, spirited finishes, and a showcase of homegrown talent, the day built up excitement heading into Pennsylvania Derby weekend.

The day kicked off with 11 registered PA-Bred 2-year-old colts and geldings in a $65,000 maiden special weight. Favored Red Zone Runner, a homebred for Tom Coulter's Arrowwood Farm, tracked inside pacesetting Ponder and Dream before cutting the corner turning for home and holding off Sylmar Farm's rallying Mister Me for a neck victory.

The second race, a sprint for 3 and up, also featured maiden action and drew a field of 12. Mr Punctuality, a homebred for Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC, dueled early with Sams After Party before taking command in the stretch. The 3-year-old Rowayton gelding out of the Uptowncharlybrown mare Ice Diamond held sway over late-closing Lion in the Sun for a 1½-length score.

Allowance action got started in race 4 with fillies and mares sprinting 6½ furlongs for a purse of $70,000. Heavily favored Kappa Kappa took control in the early going and never looked back, coasting to a 6-length victory while under wraps. Her time of 1:15.87 was the day's fastest at the distance. Bred by Stone Jug Ranch LLC, Kappa Kappa was a $65,000 yearling purchase for LC Racing. Racing for LC Racing LLC, Cash is King LLC and Wellesley Stable, the 3-year-old filly is now 2-for-3 lifetime, has earnings of $104,000, and appears to have a promising future.

Filly and mare maidens sprinted 6½ furlongs in the fifth race. First and second choices J C's Lovin' Life and Irish Banba sat just off the early pacesetter before Irish Banba rallied inside her rival entering the stretch. Holding off a furious late rally by Caitlin the Great, the homebred for Cash is King LLC and LC Racing LLC held on to break her maiden by a neck.

The third and sixth races were $25,000 claiming events with purses of $45,000 and saw victories by longshot Wild Girl, bred by Linda Merritt, and the much more supported Regalpains, bred by Equivine Farm LLC, respectively.

PA Day at the Races continued from page 1

Following her 3-year-old half-brother Regalpains' victory in the previous race, first-time starter Crown Royal Babe doubled up for breeder Equivine Farm LLC in the seventh. A 5½-furlong maiden special weight with a baker's dozen field of 2-year-old fillies, Crown Royal Babe dueled with pacesetting Extrasexyzqteepeye through the stretch before scoring by a neck. A $50,000 purchase at this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May sale, she is a daughter of Uptowncharlybrown. Her homebred dam, the winning Congrats mare Royalaspen, has three winners from four foals of racing age.

Stakes action kicked off in race eight, with the $100,000 Prince Lucky Stakes at 7 furlongs featuring the final leg of the Pennsylvania Stallion Series for 3-year-olds. Beyondexpectations, a Peace and Justice half-brother to prior Stallion Series winner Uncle Heavy (by Social Inclusion), set the early pace, while carving out fractions of :23.12 and :46.08, before he was confronted by the Houghton-trained favorites Come Prima and Silhoutte Cove. With Come Prima rallying strongest, Beyondexpectations carried his rival out while under left-handed urging. Come Prima's closing kick fell a head short, but the inquiry and objection signs were quickly lit.

Following a lengthy review, Beyondexpectations was disqualified and placed second behind Come Prima. A son of Well Spelled, Come Prima was bred by Godstone Farm LLC and has now won three of his last four starts. Runner-up Beyondexpectations was bred by Barbara Reid, while third-place finisher Silhoutte Cove was bred by Betsy Houghton.

PA-Sired fillies followed with their final leg of the Stallion Series in the $100,000 Imply Stakes over the same 7-furlong distance. Favored Carousel Queen dropped back to last in the early going but quickly passed rivals around the far turn to take command entering the stretch. She coasted to an easy 5¼-length score for her first career stakes victory.

A homebred for Dennis Johnson, Carousel Queen was the second winner on the card for stallion Uptowncharlybrown. The top three finishers all featured homebreds, with Uptowncharlybrown Stud's Up N Runnin, also by Uptowncharlybrown, checking in second, while Jerry Kolybabiuk's Angel of Hope finished third.

The final stakes on the card was the $100,000 Storm Cat at a mile and 70 yards. Early pacesetter Dropline set quick early fractions of :22.78 and :46.29 while even-money favorite Wild Vine dropped back to last. Tracking 2 lengths behind Dropline was Ninetyprcentmaddie, who confronted the early leader turning into the stretch as Wild Vine uncorked a strong late rally. With Wild Vine diving down to the rail, Ninetyprcentmaddie was resilient through the stretch as the pair dueled. At the wire, Ninetyprcentmaddie held on for the nose victory.

A homebred for LC Racing LLC, the 5-year-old son of Weigelia recorded stakes wins at 2 and 3, but hadn't visited the winner's circle since the Carle Place Stakes in New York in October 2023, 15 starts back. With a record of six wins, eight seconds, and six thirds in 28 starts, his career earnings now stand at $637,380. Runner-up Wild Vine, by Red Vine, was bred by R R Equine Stables LLC, and third-place finisher Dropline (by Uncle Lino) was bred by R H Breeding.

The final race of the day featured another 6½-furlong allowance worth $70,000. Saratoga shipper Insurmountable was a strong favorite and did not disappoint, coasting to a 3½-length score. Bred by Justine and Marc Howell's Whysper Wynd Farm LLC, Insurmountable was recently purchased by trainer Jeremiah Englehart for $150,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky July Horses of Racing Age Sale. The 3-year-old colt previously collected blacktype when second in the Carry Back Stakes at Gulfstream Park July 4.

From wire-to-wire sprints to dramatic stretch runs, Pennsylvania's Day at the Races once again highlighted the depth of the state's racing program. Fans left with plenty to cheer about – and with anticipation building toward the $1 million Pennsylvania Derby and Cotillion Stakes to come.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Congratulations to the 17 breeders who surpassed the $100,000 mark in total awards through September! Our leaders, Warriors Reward and Uptowncharlybrown Stud, are fighting it out again this year. Warriors Reward is currently leading with $671,455. Wow! Will they be the first breeder to hit the $1-million mark? We have 303 breeders that have received an award in 2025. If you want to become part of our program or just want more information, give me a call at 610-444-1050.

Pa Day at the Races was another great day for Pennsylvania breeding and racing. We paid out over a million dollars in purses and breeder awards and finished out the PA-Sired PA-Bred Sired Stakes Series. Congratulations to the winner Honorable Win, who earned $25,000 to her breeder Pewter Stable. Carousel Queen was in second place in total points and earned $15,000 for her breeder Dennis Johnson and the third-place prize of $10,000 was split between Reelin N Dealin, bred by Barbara Rickline and Gabe Rispo and The Boy's Warrior, bred by Warrior's Reward LLC, who ended with the same point total. The Breeder Bonuses will be presented to the winners on October 22nd in the winner's circle between the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stakes that day. Congrats to all.

I'm happy to announce that there will be no registration fee for the PA-Sired PA-Bred Series which begins Dec. 30, 2025, at PARX with two 2YO $75,000 stakes at 6 furlongs. Don't miss out. If your 2YO is a PA-Sired PA-Bred, you will be automatically registered and eligible to run.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We are transitioning to paperless the beginning of next year. Wishing you good luck the remaining two months of 2025, and remember – PA is the only place to Breed & Race!!

PENNSYLVANIA DOMICILE REPORTS

FOR MARES FOALING IN 2026 DUE BY

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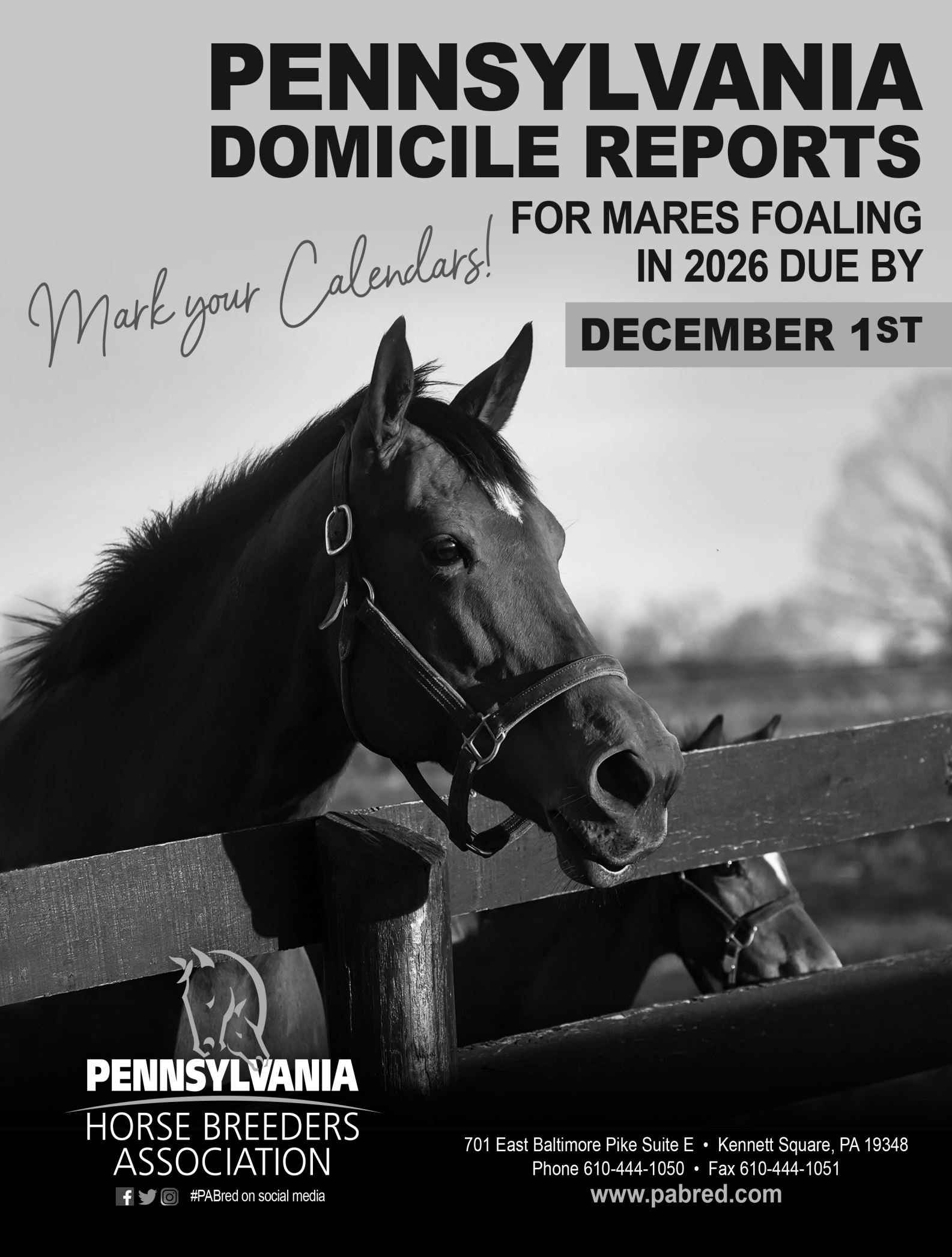

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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through August 30, 2025

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	484,072	142,327	626,398
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	309,024	134,956	443,979
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	97,475	111,952	209,427
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	200,372	200,372
Blackstone Farm LLC	173,967	0	173,967
Steven W. Young Racing dba A1A Racing	89,401	40,685	130,086
Arrowwood Farm Inc.	128,859	0	128,859
Glenn E. Brok LLC	84,166	41,204	125,371
Pewter Stable	91,616	27,672	119,289
Peter Giangiulio	118,585	0	118,585

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Equivine Farm LLC	110,349	0	110,349
Sylmar Farm Inc.	101,458	0	101,458
Joseph Imbesi	101,242	0	101,242
Richard N. Miller	81,468	17,345	98,812
Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	92,503	0	92,503
W M T Stables Inc.	81,808	0	81,808
St. Omer's Farm	80,110	0	80,110
Melissa Houghton	74,722	0	74,722
Kathleen Brady	73,753	0	73,753
Social Inclusion Partners LLC	0	71,206	71,206

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	313	142,327
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	296	134,956
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	198	106,369
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	207	87,267
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	106	71,206
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc	94	50,740
Peace and Justice	A1A Racing	96	40,685
Rowayton	OXO Equine LLC	51	34,486
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	89	32,924
Winchill	Pewter Stable	112	27,672

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	28	25,397
Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	48	22,684
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	56	20,433
Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	32	15,682
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	27	14,924
Pat On the Back	Harold Lerner LLC	27	13,810
Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	44	13,362
Il Villano	Chuck Russo	33	12,348
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	40	12,102
Flashback	Gary and Mary West	26	10,974

LEADING HORSES

Fund money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Pa Bred Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Owner Bonus	Total
PACHELBEL*	Hoppertunity-Brilliant Sunshine	Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	12	0	86,503	21,626	50,588	158,717
HOUGHTON SHUFFLE*	Medallist-Runs Like L	Melissa Houghton	5	58,800	50,240	12,560	16,000	137,600
SON OF THOR*	Rowayton-Charlybrown's Rose	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	6	0	62,048	15,512	44,320	121,880
CANDY REWARD*	Warrior's Reward-Unimagineable	Warriors Reward	4	44,100	50,160	12,540	7,500	114,300
BIG BOYS ANSWER*	Uptowncharlybrown-Empires Answer	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	7	0	59,315	14,829	35,168	109,312
CARMELINA	Maximus Mischief-Complete St.	Lilith E. Boucher	3	59,400	29,520	0	13,200	102,120
HARP'S HOT CORNER*	Weigelia-Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	7	1,000	56,040	14,010	24,480	95,530
JUMP A FOX*	Jump Start-Foxy A. G.	Peter Giangiulio	14	0	49,215	12,304	32,399	93,918
FAR MO POWER*	Uncle Lino-J. D. Safari	Peter Giangiulio	6	0	49,616	12,404	31,240	93,260
SOCIALLY AWKWARD*	Social Inclusion-Bluegrass Smile	Blackstone Farm LLC	8	0	48,348	12,087	19,380	79,815
NATURE'S CANDY*	Uncle Lino-Easter Blossom	Y Jerry Kolybabiuk	6	2,183	41,672	10,418	14,980	69,253
NINJA PRIZE*	Warrior's Reward-Lemon Strudel	Kathleen Brady	8	0	34,832	8,708	24,880	68,420
HE'S A MESS	Dramedy-Nightfury	Linda Martinez	4	45,000	16,984	0	6,120	68,104
OKIE DEN DEN*	Uptowncharlybrown-Baetykaty	Equivine Farm LLC	11	0	36,626	9,156	19,304	65,086
COME PRIMA*	Well Spelled-My Sonata	Godstone Farm LLC	9	0	41,807	10,452	12,578	64,836
FIERCE AND STRONG*	Hoppertunity-Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	2	42,750	17,100	4,275	0	64,125
ET'S MOON MAIDEN*	Emperor Tiberius-Andrea's Moon	Richard N. Miller	8	0	29,803	7,451	21,288	58,542
COMMINGLING*	Social Inclusion-Rhyme N Rhythm	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	10	0	35,088	8,772	13,920	57,780
TOOTALOO KANGAROO*	Hoppertunity-Akira	Klobia S. Carroll	6	0	35,976	8,994	12,450	57,420
SISTER EVE*	Warrior's Reward-Sky Mystic	Warriors Reward	12	0	29,081	7,270	20,772	57,123

**Denotes PA-sired*

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

Racing Across the Nation

Between the period of Aug. 23 and Sept. 19, nine South Carolina graduates of our training centers won stakes races.

The amazing Book'em Danno notched his third stakes win in a row when proving best in the Forego-G1 at Saratoga on Travers Day, Aug. 23. Fourth early on, Book'em Danno was within striking distance before gaining the lead with an eighth of a mile to go. He crossed the finish line a length in front. Owned by Atlantic Six Racing LLC and trained by Derek Ryan, this 4-year-old gelding has captured nine stakes wins in 16 lifetime starts. Prepared for his racing career by Randy and Kala Rentz, he has $1,855,425 in career earnings.

Winner of the Jersey Girl Handicap July 5 at Monmouth Park, Riding Pretty came back to win the Charles Hesse III Handicap Aug. 24 at Monmouth. Within 3 lengths of the lead, Riding Pretty launched her bid in the turn, took a 3-length lead in the stretch, then had to hold off another to win by a neck. This was her fourth stakes win, all at Monmouth Park. Riding Pretty has accumulated $525,320 over her career. Riding Pretty is a graduate of the Travis Durr Training Center. She is owned by her breeder Holly Crest Farm, trained by Eddie Owens and was ridden by Samuel Marin.

On the same day at Monmouth Park, another former Durr graduate, Great Navigator, captured the New Jersey Breeders Handicap. While stalking the leader early on, he took the lead on the turn and quickly opened up by 3 lengths. He then cruised to the finish line to win by 4¼ lengths. He also is owned by Holly Crest Farm, trained by Owens and was ridden by Marin.

Randy, Justin and Kala Rentz's former student, Ohio Joe, was the first horse to reach the finish line in the Crowd Pleaser Stakes at Penn National Aug. 29. Sixth early on, he worked his way up through traffic and scored by a half length. Ridden by Anthony Salgado, Ohio Joe is trained by Louis Linder and owned by Bran Jam Stable and David Clark.

On Sept. 6, Safe Trip Home won his second race in a row and fourth in 10 lifetime starts when capturing the Colonial Cup Stakes at Colonial Downs. In no rush early on in this 1½-mile marathon, Safe Trip Home took off with an eighth of a mile to go and drew clear in the stretch to win by 2¼ lengths. He went through the breaking process at Bob and Jason's McCutchen Training Center in Kingstree. Debby McCutchen is a Vice President of the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. Safe Trip Home is owned by PTK LLC, trained by William Cowans and was ridden by Emmanuel Esquivel.

On Sept. 7, Post Time did it again when winning the Polynesian Stakes at Laurel Park. He has truly been a remarkable horse, winning 12 of his 20 lifetime starts including eight stakes. Post Time won the Polynesian Stakes last year also. Within 2½ lengths after a quarter mile, he eased to the front with a half mile to go and, with a slight ask, came home a 17-length winner. Post Time was prepared for his racing career in Aiken by Cary Frommer. He is owned by Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stable LLC, trained by Brittany Russell and ridden by her husband, Sheldon.

Toupie recorded her fifth stakes victory by proving best in the Sensible Lady Turf Dash at Laurel Park Sept. 13. Toupie learned her early lessons at the Travis Durr Training Center. After bumping the side of the gate, she settled on the inside while gradually improving her position. In the stretch, she came up between rivals and drove to a 1¼-length victory. Owned by Wertheimer and Frere, Toupie is trained by Graham Motion and was ridden by Daniel Centeno.

Had to Have Him, bred and raised by wes carter in bamberg, captured his first stakes victory in the Laurel Dash at Laurel Park, also on Sept. 13. Had to Have Him was eighth of 10 after being bumped at the start. He circled the field in the turn, continued his rally through the stretch and crossed the finish line 2 lengths clear of the field. Ridden on this day by J.G. Torrealba, he is trained by John Salzman and owned by Gracie Mae Stables and Great Lake Stable.

The 2-year-old filly Sweet Montreal is now 2-for-2. After breaking her maiden at Saratoga Aug. 6, she proved much the best in the Joseph A. Gimma Stakes at the Belmont at the Big A meet Sept. 19. She broke on top and never looked back, crossing the finish line 3¼ lengths in front. Sweet Montreal came up under Travis Durr's watchful eye. She is owned by DiRico Racing and Breeding LLC, trained by James Ryerson, and was ridden on this day by Christopher Elliott.

Franklin "Goree" Smith Honored

At the 40th anniversary of the TOBA National Awards dinner Sept. 6 in Lexington, Ky., Franklin "Goree" Smith was honored as the 2024 South Carolina Breeder of the Year. Goree is the owner of the Elloree Training Center. His first horse arrived in 1972. His work has encompassed all elements of the Thoroughbred industry from foals, to horses in training, to breeding stock.

In 2024, he was the breeder of 21 horses who made starts at various tracks. Together, these horses earned $585,232. This is the 13th time Goree has earned this award.

Kingsley family shines at Fair Hill

Racing returned to Fair Hill, Md., Saturday, Aug. 30. Six races were held on the grass, each going 1⅝ miles. SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley saddled a winner and Taylor Kingsley, the daughter of Arch and Wendy, rode two winners. Taylor rode Fightnomoreforever to a 1¾-length victory for owner Bonita Farm. Trainer Kevin Boniface's family is the longtime owner of Bonita Farm in Maryland. Arch and Taylor teamed up together to win a starter allowance with Gossiper, who crossed the finish line 14 lengths clear of the field. Gossiper is owned by South Carolina resident J.R. Stainbrook and part-time South Carolina residents Adam Newman and Thomas Rice.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Chado	McCutchen Tng Ctr	08/22/25	Colonial Downs	Allowance
Tricky Temper	Travis Durr Tng ctr	08/22/25	Saratoga	Allowance
BOOK'EM DANNO	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	08/23/25	Saratoga	Forego S-G1
RIDING PRETTY	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	08/24/25	Monmouth Park	Charles Hesse III H
GREAT NAVIGATOR	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	08/24/25	Monmouth Park	New Jersey Breeders H
Mobelladream	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	08/25/25	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Signifying Nothing	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	08/25/25	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Calling Tillie	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	08/25/25	Thistledown	Maiden Special Weight
A Case of You	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	08/25/25	Presque Isle Downs	Allowance
Pretorian Gold	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	08/26/25	Penn National	Allowance
OHIO JOE	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	08/29/25	Penn National	Crowd Pleaser S
Freeze the Fire	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	08/29/25	Timonium	Allowance
Gossiper	Arch Kingsley	08/30/25	Fair Hill	Starter Allowance
Rock Star Casanova	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/01/25	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Bustin Away	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/01/25	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Dropline	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/01/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Bengal Cat	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/02/25	Presque Isle Downs	Maiden Special Weight
East Coast Girl	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/02/25	Finger Lakes	Allowance
L Golden Boy	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/03/25	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Commingling	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/04/25	Penn National	Allowance
Honey Dutch	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/04/25	Kentucky Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Pudd'n Pie	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/06/25	Delaware Park	Allowance
SAFE TRIP HOME	McCutchen Tng Ctr	09/06/25	Colonial Downs	Colonial Cup S
POST TIME	Aiken - Cary Frommer	09/07/25	Laurel Park	Polynesian S
Gone With Duwyn	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/07/25	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Lovely Pashyn	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/08/25	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Lit Ship	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/10/25	Kentucky Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Belloro	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/12/25	Aqueduct	Maiden Special Weight
Iron Max	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/12/25	Aqueduct	Allowance
Tap Into Grace	Mason Springs	09/12/25	Colonial Downs	Maiden Special Weight
Vieux Carre	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/13/25	Delaware Park	Allowance
Blue Kingdom	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/13/25	Colonial Downs	Allowance
HAD TO HAVE HIM	Wes Carter	09/13/25	Laurel Park	Laurel Dash S
TOUPIE	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/13/25	Laurel Park	Sensible Lady Turf Dash S
Blue Moon Tide	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/13/25	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
Reload Raleigh	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/14/25	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Coringa	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/14/25	Laurel Park	Allowance
Rock Me Gently	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/15/25	Parx Racing	Starter Allowance
Peridot Pendant	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/18/25	Delaware Park	Starter Allowance
Red Zone Runner	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/19/25	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Mr. Punctuality	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/19/25	Parx Racing	Maiden Special Weight
Angel Bella	Mason Springs	09/19/25	Churchill Downs	Maiden Special Weight
SWEET MONTREAL	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/19/25	Aqueduct	Joseph A. Gimma S
Buds Notion	Rentz Farm Tng Ctr	09/20/25	Delaware Park	Maiden Special Weight
Coiled	Aiken - Legacy Stable	09/20/25	Laurel Park	Allowance
Anakarina	Travis Durr Tng Ctr	09/20/25	Churchill Downs	Allowance
Ahumado	Mason Springs	09/20/25	Belterra Park	Allowance

VIRGINIA

COLONIAL DOWNS WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL 2025 THOROUGHBRED SEASON IN NEW KENT

Colonial Downs wrapped up an historic and record setting 2025 race season on September 13, completing a 44-day campaign that included three race days in a first ever Virginia Derby spring meet followed by 41 days in a traditional summer stand which extended ten weeks. The New Kent track recorded highs in number of race days, guests in attendance, horses in competition, wagering handle, and purse money distributed.

The combined meets attracted over 70,000 guests. A total of 397 races — in which 3,146 horses participated — were contested for total purse money of $27.4 million. The betting handle of $101,032,299 included a one-day record of $10.46 million on the Arlington Million card. Summer season highlights included the Grade 3 Old Dominion Derby and "Festival of Racing" program which featured Mystik Dan, the first Kentucky Derby winner to ever compete in New Kent.

Six Virginia-Restricted stakes took place throughout the summer in addition to six stakes open to both Virginia and Maryland-bred/sired horses, and four stakes specifically for Virginia-bred/sired horses. Two open steeplechase stakes were conducted as well.

Colonial Downs and its Rosie's Gaming Emporium properties are all owned and operated by Churchill Downs and are critical pieces of Virginia's $2 billion-plus equine industry. Revenue generated by these properties supported the high value purses that attracted stables from across the country.

Looking ahead, Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin announced that the 2026 Virginia Derby will again serve as a Kentucky Derby qualifier on March 14, 2026 subject to approval by the Virginia Racing Commission. In 2025, the Virginia Derby was moved to dirt, shifted to a mid-March date and served as a Kentucky Derby qualifier for the first time ever.

Riverdee's Cool Jet won the Foxfeld Fall Races feature October 5 in Charlottesville (Douglas Lees).

VIRGINIA'S FALL STEEPLECHASE SEASON IN FULL SWING

The Foxfield Races in Charlottesville ushered in Virginia's fall steeplechase racing season October 5th with an 8-race card and purses totaling $235,000. Riverdee Stables' and Jack Fisher trainee Jet Away captured the featured event — the Grade 3 Mariann de Tejada Memorial — beating Fisher's other powerhouse horse, Snap Decision.

With veteran reinsman Bernie Dalton in the irons, Cool Jet broke alertly, sitting in second behind Michael Smith's Foxy Walk while the field remained bunched up early through the first circuit of the course, with Foxy Walk leading by as much as five lengths at one point. With one lap to go Foxy Walk and Cool Jet raced close together, as Snap Decision moved up to third. At the final fence it was all Cool Jet and a determined Foxy Walk, who dug in mightily despite dictating much of the pace.

The race was Snap Decision's first since finishing second in the Iroquois at Nashville in May. At age 11 he was ineligible to compete in any of the four Grade 1s on the New York Racing Association circuit. For Cool Jet, it was the nine-year-old Irish-bred's first start since notching the Grade 1 Commonwealth Cup at the Virginia Gold Cup Races in May. The win pushed his career bankroll over the $300,000 mark.

The jump race season continues with the Middleburg Fall Races at Glenwood Park October 11, the International Gold Cup at Great Meadow October 25, and the 90th running of the Montpelier Hunt Races in Montpelier Station on November 1.

STAKES, HANDICAPS FOR VIRGINIA-CONNECTED HORSES HIGHLIGHT LATE SUMMER ACTION AT COLONIAL

The second half of Colonial Downs' summer season featured a minimum of two stakes every weekend. On August 23rd, trainer Michael Trombetta swept a pair of juvenile turf sprints as both the Estate of Larry Johnson's colt Doubting Thomas and Red White and Blue Racing & London Reid's Thoroughbreds' filly Just Philtored wired their respective Virginia & Maryland-bred/sired fields in the $125,000 Jamestown and Dolley Madison Stakes respectively.

With Jorge Ruiz aboard, Doubting Thomas covered the 5 1/2 furlongs in 1:02.39 in defeating Karate Island by 1 3/4 lengths. Along with his off-the-pace debut win, the Virginia-bred Caravaggio colt is 2-for-2 on turf with a career bankroll of $127,500.

Going 5 1/2 furlongs under jockey Mychel Sanchez, Just Philtored stopped the clock in 1:03.21 while winning the Dolley Madison by 4-1/2 lengths over Slewperstitus. Perfect in three career starts including the Keswick Stakes, the Maryland-bred daughter of Great Notion has earned $167,430.

"You can do anything with her," Sanchez said, "I didn't see a lot of speed in the race, so I took advantage of that and went to the lead. Although we put up a good time, I feel like she went a little slow for what she wanted to do."

August 30th action featured a pair of $100,000 Virginia-Restricted Handicaps with another $50,000 added for horses that were Virginia-bred or sired. Ken Ramsey's 6-year-old gelding Whenigettoheaven captured the Meadow Stable while The Estate of Larry Johnson's mare Hollywood Walk defended her crown in the Camptown.

Trained by Nolan Ramsey and ridden by J.G. Torrealba, Whenigettoheaven went straight to the front, setting the pace under pressure from odds-on favorite Determined Kingdom. After being headed in mid-stretch, the winner dug back in, regained the lead and held off the late surge of Going Up by a head. Bred in Maryland by Johnson, the Virginia-Certified gelding now owns a record of 29-7-5-8 with $441,890 in earnings.

Hollywood Walk's second straight Camptown title also came in dramatic fashion. Tracking leader Boserati from mid-pack, she rallied along the rail in the stretch and put her head down just in time to hold off Chickahominy. Trained by Michael Trombetta and piloted by Mychel Sanchez, Hollywood Walk completed 5 1/2 furlongs on turf in 1:02.97. Fresh off a victory in the open-company Andy Guest Stakes, Hollywood Walk now boasts consecutive stakes wins. Also bred in Maryland by Johnson, the Virginia-Certified 6-year-old mare has a career line of 27-7-4-8 with $542,731 in earnings.

Closing day's card on September 13th included another pair of $100,000 Virginia-Restricted Handicaps — the Bert Allen for three years old & up and the Nellie Mae Cox for fillies & mares three and up.

Woodslane Farm's Wolfie's Dynaghost got everything his way and never looked back in the Allen Handicap and as a result, saw his career bankroll surge over the $1 million mark. Three years after winning the same state-certified race at Colonial, the 7-year-old Ghostzapper gelding was never challenged on the front end and cruised home to a 3 3/4 length victory.

After setting a course record at Laurel Park in the $125,000 Prince George's County in June and finishing second in a Saratoga allowance in August, Wolfie's Dynaghost appears back in form after missing most of his 2024 campaign. From 20 lifetime starts, he has 12 wins, and earnings of $1,054,647.

Four-year-old filly Public Defender scored a well-earned victory in the Cox Handicap, her fourth straight for trainer Jane Cibelli. The 4-year-old Constitution filly won her third race of the summer at Colonial — which followed a six-month break after winning at Gulfstream on January 24th. She came on strong from fourth place in the turn, passed frontrunner Vehemente early in the stretch and went on to win by 2 3/4 lengths. She completed the 1 1/16 miles distance in 1:42.36.

The Estate of Larry Johnson's Hollywood Walk defended her crown in the Camptown Handicap (Coady Media).

Johnson's Virginia-bred Doubting Thomas won the $125,000 Jamestown Stakes (Coady Media).

Woodslane Farm's Wolfie's Dynaghost went over the $1 million mark in earnings in the Bert Allen Handicap (Coady Media).

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THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter November 2025

A midsummer classic for Walters and Brown

By Jeff Gilleas

The Robert R. Hilton Stakes is a $500,000 race for 3-year-olds going 7 furlongs, which at the bullring configuration of Charles Town is a two-turn event.

A year ago, a significant purse increase was added to attract some of the finest stables in the country, but symbolizing the dark-horse spirit prized in Thoroughbred racing, it was an overachieving, late-running son of Barbados who distinguished himself from the cream of the 2022 crop.

COADY MEDIA

Two runners, Owen Almighty and Neoequos, seeking class relief after competing in the Grade 1 Kentucky Derby, were held in highest regard by morning-line oddsmaker Paul Espinosa Jr. and were established as 5-2 and 7-2 respectively.

Inspired by the festive program's previous success, several departments (Marketing, Racing, F&B, Security and Maintenance) at Hollywood Casino collaborated to ensure another grand hometown production.

Thirteen races were conducted under ideal weather conditions with Hilton Stakes winner, Barbadian Runner ($21.60), showcasing a unique local connection.

Any discussion of the Hilton begins with trainer Henry Walters, and his family relation to the universally respected figure that bears the stakes name.

For 45 years, Henry has been a licensed conditioner in the Mid-Atlantic region and brother to horsemen John and David.

On the surface, Henry appears as the "Clark Kent" in the Walters clan. . . mild-mannered and unassuming.

For decades, quietly tucked away on the Pimlico backstretch with a modest string of runners, the middle of the brothers now has in his possession the "Golden Ticket".

A $5,000 bargain buy yearling at Timonium, Barbadian Runner benefited from a torrid pace in the Hilton, while sitting the perfect trip under jockey Forest Boyce.

From her vantage point at the top of the lane, clear of any traffic, Boyce used her mount's short-lived, but high-praised, late kick to author a stellar performance.

The margin of victory was 2½ lengths and secured a poignant tribute for horse, rider and trainer in the winner's circle ceremonies.

It took guts for Walters to take on this flush field.

Though nominations were free, Henry initially seemed reluctant to add the name of the full-brother to Charles Town veteran Sue Loves Barbados to the Hilton Stakes' hopefuls.

"Obviously, I knew of a $500,000 race, at a distance that fit my horse perfectly, while within an hour's travel time," said Walters. "However, we had just run 13 days previously at Colonial Downs (finishing second in the Petramalo Mile Stakes), in track record time. Also, that kind of money attracts stiff competition, and I had long range plans to run in the Maryland Million. The office staff assured me that anyone who won the Jersey Derby (which he did in May) was a major player, so I took the bait and nominated Barbadian Runner."

Henry has been training for Scott Groh around six years.

"It was just luck that we purchased Barbadian Runner. Mr. Groh and I had a strict budget and went down the line checking off pedigree versus price."

Traits attributed to all the Walters men are hard work, patience and a hands-on approach.

With Pimlico in the process of being torn down and rebuilt, Henry has transitioned his band of eight runners to Laurel Park.

"The commute from home is significant compared to being housed at Pimlico. Though age eventually will slow me down, I still enjoy playing a fundamental role in the care and maintenance of my horses. The choice to run in the Hilton (named after my brother David's father-in-law), was a collaborative effort between my exercise rider and me. No one knows how a horse is feeling better than the person who sits on them everyday."

A few days prior to entering the $500,000 race, Henry called his owner to discuss the pros and cons for the Hilton attempt.

The stable name A J Will Win shed light on his response: "Let's go for it."

The day of the race, Henry and Barbadian Runner took up residence in barn 9, where his brother David has stabled since recorded time. Stall manager Mike Elliot couldn't provide an exact date, but thought somewhere in the vicinity of 30 years.

Normally, it is David (1,600 wins), garnering the majority of the family's accolades, however on this evening, roles were reversed.

The first person to congratulate Henry,as Barbadian Runner triumphantly made his way to the winner's circle, was his brother David.

It's the tallest peak in racing that Henry ever conquered, and an inspirational moment suspended in time for a family that shares a unique profession.

Robert R. Hilton won 2,512 races in his career and is credited with providing young David Walters many formative equine lessons.

Ellen Walters, Robert and Ann Hilton's daughter, is David's business partner and wife.

Said Henry Walters, "With approximately two minutes to post, I glanced at the infield toteboard and saw Barbadian Runners odds were 38-1. I thought, did I make the wrong decision as the announcer blared 'They're off.' Before the clubhouse turn Forest had secured a ground-saving trip and once on the backstretch began to advance on the compact group of leaders. I don't think she ever hit my horse, while riding the perfect race."

Sire Barbados is a son of Speightstown out of the Street Cry (Ire) mare Northern Station bred by Tommy Town Thoroughbreds. He entered stud in 2017, and currently stands in West Virginia at Ronney and Nicole Brown's Pellinor Lane Farm.

Primarily a sprinter, Barbados won the Hutcheson-G3, Spectacular Bid Stakes and Pelican Stakes, all at Gulfstream Park, with seconds in the Carry Back-G3 and Phoenix Stakes-G3 and a third in the Amsterdam-G2, while earning $377,241.

In a recent conversation with Ronney, he referenced that the breeding business is all about timing.

"Nicole and I are hoping to piggyback off Barbadian Runner's Hilton score, as we look towards the future. Fortuitously, we bred approximately 20 of our mares to him this year."

Like Henry Walters and Groh, Ronney and Nicole are optimistically seeking a bargain, hoping to gain a license to print money with their rising stallion.

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— Looking Back —

The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Vol. 23, Issue 11
NOVEMBER 2015
Cool Dude
Frosted storms Parx Racing in Pennsylvania Derby score
Charles Town's (maybe the country's) oldest trainer • I'm a Chatterbox wins Gr. 1 Cotillion

10 years ago

■ The door was left wide open for Frosted when American Pharoah passed on the $1 million Pennsylvania Derby-G2. Frosted had faced American Pharoah three times and never finished ahead of him. The Godolphin runner trained by Kiaran McLaughlin, considered by many to be the second-best 3-year-old in training, went off the even-money favorite in the field of nine, glided to the lead at the top of the stretch, and stormed home a 2-length winner. His career bankroll soared past $2 million.

■ Longtime Maryland owner and breeder Howard Bender died at the age of 84. He and his late wife Sondra got involved in the business in the 1980s, spurred by a friendship with Dot and Sam Rubin (owners of Hall of Famer John Henry). They were recognized as the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's Breeder of the Year four times. Star runners included Secret River, Foufa's Warrior, Promenade Girl, London Lane and La Reine's Terms. "They both enjoyed it equally so it was something they could do together," said Larry Murray, who trained for the Benders and managed Glade Valley Farm, which Howard's father Jack had been a part owner. "They loved coming to the racetrack, the races, the farm, traveling to big races. And they made it fun for everybody."

■ Richard Butts Jr., at 92 years and 10 months come late November, was possibly the oldest active trainer in North America and still sending out winners at Charles Town, his base since 1980. Through mid-October he ranked 16th among the local trainers, with 13 wins from 93 starts. Three allowance wins were for Virginia dentist Sam English II. "You know, if you're an owner, you want 'em to hurry up and move along, and he'll make you wait, 'cause he knows if you don't, the horses'll make you wait," English said of Butts. " 'Doc, we gotta wait on 'em. You can't push 'em.' 'OK, Mr Butts, if you say so.' At his age, he's got a lot of on-the-job-experience."

■ R. Larry Johnson's homebred filly Walk of Stars recorded her first stakes win in the $100,000 Pink Ribbon at Charles Town as the daughter of Street Sense wired the field at 13-1. It was her fourth win in six races over the West Virginia oval, all under Travis Dunkelberger. "What we've learned about her is that she seems to have an affinity for two things," said trainer Mike Trombetta. "She likes the half-mile bullring-type racetracks and she likes to be running up on the front end of things. When she gets up there, she gets a lot of courage and she's very hard to pass."

Holly Crest Farm's homebred 4-year-old filly Stiffed recorded her second stakes win of the year in the restricted Jersey Girl Handicap at Monmouth. "She's a very nice filly and she looks like a million dollars," said her 78-year-old trainer John Mazza.

Both mares are the dams of Grade 1 winners this year – Walk of Stars has Mindframe; Stiffed the undefeated 4-year-old filly Cavalieri.

25 years ago

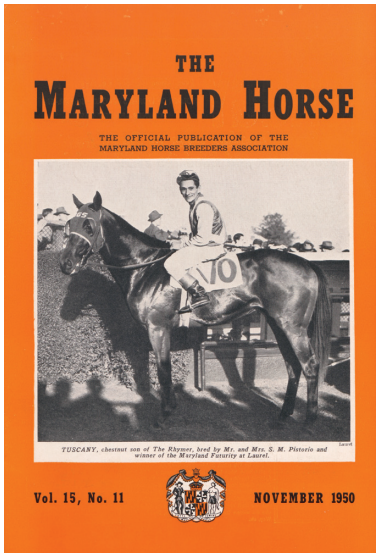
■ Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's three-day Eastern fall yearling sale was the region's biggest horse auction. Gross receipts totalled $11,289,300 for 566 horses sold. An additional 159 (22 percent of those through the ring) were recorded as buy-backs. Nineteen sold for $100,000 or more – also a record at Timonium.

■ In more sales news, Fasig-Tipton Midlantic was expanding the December mixed sale to three days. Included in the catalog were 373 broodmares. The Thoroughbred Charities of America's benefit auction, held at Herb and Ellen Moelis' CandyLand Farm in Middletown, Del., would be held one day before the Timonium sale and was expected to offer more than 300 stallion seasons, including those standing in Kentucky, Maryland, California, Florida and New York.

■ Max's Pal, a 3-year-old son of Marquetry trained by Ben Perkins Jr., dominated the Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships series. He contested all six races in the 3-year-old, sprint, dirt division, winning five. His lone defeat came in the Jersey Shore Breeders' Cup-G3 at Monmouth Park, in which he missed by a nose to Disco Rico. Max's Pal earned the $100,000 overall bonus for owner Raymond Dweck of Oakhurst, N.J., and a $50,000 bonus for Perkins.

■ Fox Hill Farm's Jostle, considered the top 3-year-old filly in the country, put on a show for her hometown fans at Philadelphia Park when winning the $200,000 Cotillion Handicap-G2 with ease. The daughter of Brocco trained by John Servis was making her first start at her home track. In her prior dozen starts, her seven victories included the Coaching Club American Oaks-G1 and Alabama Stakes-G1.

■ The Mid-Atlantic region lost one of its finest horsepeople with the death of Joy Valentine at age 96. She was a highly successful breeder of flat runners, and an even more accomplished member of the steeplechase community. She and her husband Miles, who died in 1978, maintained Knockmuira Farm in Unionville, Pa. "Valentine horses won four runnings of the American Grand National and three Maryland Hunt Cups, and at least one renewal of practically every other major steeplechase event."



75 years ago

■ Morris Schapiro, long identified with racing at various other tracks, gained control of Laurel Race Course by purchasing 6,710 of 10,000 shares in the track from the Maryland Jockey Club. The MJC, which had bought the plant from the Butlers of New York in 1947, liquidated another of its holdings with a view to devoting its resources to the rebuilding of the Pimlico course in Baltimore.

■ Mrs. Robert H. Heighe, one of Maryland's foremost breeders, and owner of one of the state's leading racing stables, announced the sale of her Prospect Hill Stud near Bel Air. Maryland's leading lady of the turf (and second vice president of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association) entered racing in 1929 and would continue to campaign her popular green and white silks. The 200-acre farm was being sold to Mr. and Mrs. Bliss Flaccus, who planned to continue its use as a Thoroughbred nursery.

■ Tred Avon, one of the nation's finest racemares in the early 1930s, died at age 22 at Danny Shea's Merryland Farm, where she resided as a pensioner. Bred and campaigned by Sylvester Labrot, she was buried at Holly Beach Farm where she was foaled, next to the grave of her sire, *Sir Graysteel. The champion handicap mare of 1932 won 22 races, her greatest victory coming in the Washington Handicap at Laurel when she defeated the turf stars Equipoise and Mate.

■ A.G. Vanderbilt's Loser Weeper was selected by the Maryland Racing Writers' Association as the Maryland-bred horse who "has done the most during the 1950 racing season to enhance the prestige of the Maryland horse breeding industry." The balloting to decide the winner was between the 5-year-old son of Discovery and Outdone and five others: Double Brandy, Pilaster, Tuscany, Family and Tenure; Loser Weeper was the unanimous winner.

Tuscany, a son of The Rhymer bred by Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Pistorio, won the Maryland Futurity at Laurel and appeared on the cover.

■ The Pimlico Special "wasn't up to its usual high standard . . . but it made a good race to watch, and the winner, Greentree's One Hitter, is a plucky little rascal." It was the first time a Pimlico Special winner was sired by a winner, as Shut Out won the race in 1943. It was also the second straight win for the stable and for jockey Ted Atkinson, who won with Capot the previous year.

50 years ago

■ Trainer King Leatherbury said Maryland-bred filly Thirty Paces was the fastest 2-year-old he ever trained. The daughter of Dancing Count won her two starts, both at Bowie, by a combined 21 lengths. Her allowance score, in 1:10 flat, was the second fastest 6-furlong clocking of the meet. Bred by William Stokes and owned by his wife Anita, she was being pointed to Laurel's Cameo Stakes.

■ The first Maryland-sired crop of 2-year-olds by Summer Hill Farm stallion Dead Ahead yielded two stakes winners – Mt. Airy Queen and Future Decision – who won their divisions of the $20,000-added Bowie Kindergarten. Jack and Gretchen Mobberley had purchased Dead Ahead from Harry Guggenheim's estate on a sealed bid, their interest piqued because they had success with a daughter from an earlier crop. In choosing mares for their horse's book, Jack said: "We don't really book mares – we book owners. We try hard to limit the number of mares to 35. We strongly believe that 35 mares is enough for any stallion."

The undefeated King T. Leatherbury-trained juvenile filly Thirty Paces was turning heads with her speed.

■ Trainer Doug Small's middle son Dick was now the trainer of record for the 17 horses his father previously trained for outside owners. "Richard W. Small has had great success since assuming command of his father's public stable, winning four stakes within the past three months." Sally Gibson's Festive Mood, a 6-year-old who had never won a stakes race, won three. And Small sent out 2-year-old filly Future Decision for owner Nathan Cohen. Said the new trainer, a college graduate: "I've never known any other life than horses and the racetracks. I was bred to it. It's a peculiar life. . . Training horses is all I ever want to do."

A Mid-Atlantic trainer with few peers, Dick Small trained until 2014, the year he died of cancer at age 68. He won 1,198 races and trained major winners Broad Brush, Concern, Caesar's Wish and Valley Crossing among others.

■ Northern Dancer's yearlings were setting sales records in Ireland, with a colt out of champion What a Treat topping the list when sold to trainer Vincent O'Brien for $281,305. The Irish record-setter was one of four Northern Dancer yearlings to bring as much as $200,000 that year. That colt, as well as a son of Fleur (sold to British Bloodstock Agency for $200,000 at Keeneland) were slated for racing abroad.

What a Treat's son was graded stakes winner and English leading sire Be My Guest. The son of Fleur was multiple European classic winner, English Horse of the Year and major sire The Minstrel.

Blessing of the Hounds

In a ceremony that doesn't look much different now, the Howard County Hounds' staff, members and pack pause for a blessing at Doughoregan Manor by the minister from St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City in 1970.

Walter M. "Skip" Ball was an award-winning staff photographer for *Maryland Horse* magazine from the mid-1960s to the late 1980s. His children donated his work to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association several years ago, and the photographs are part of the Maryland Horse Library as the Skip Ball Collection. In the next stages of our archiving projects, Ball's films and slides have been digitized to preserve this gifted photographer's legacy.

2026 Maryland Broodmare Incentive Program

Get back 20% of your purchase price on NEW Maryland Broodmares

To Qualify:

Mares foaling in 2026 must be purchased from a recognized public auction. The purchased mare must not have foaled in Maryland the previous two years and must be in foal for 2026 at the time of purchase. The mare must drop her 2026 foal* in Maryland and be bred to a Maryland stallion** in the 2026 breeding season.

Incentive Structure

20% reimbursement of purchase price (with a minimum qualifying purchase of $5,000 and a maximum payout per mare of $6,000). Limited reimbursement up to $10,000 to one individual/entity. Program limited to a total of $50,000 for 2026 incentives.

Application Requirements

- **Invoice** from a recognized sales company and proof of payment
- Copy of mare's **registration papers**
- **Vet certificate** confirming the mare is at least 45 days in foal
- Signed **Confirmation of Cover** from farm standing Maryland stallion
- Signed **Commitment to Program Terms** by applicant

Administration & Compliance: The program runs until the end of the 2026 breeding season. Available funds of $50,000 for 2026 applicants. Incentives will be paid on a first come, first served basis. A wait list will be created as fully completed and accepted applications are received in the mail. If a mare aborts or does not get in-foal, eligibility will be retained for the 2026 program if all other criteria are met. Ownership of mare cannot be transferred until program commitments are fulfilled.

Maryland Horse Breeders Association
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**Foal must be eligible to be registered Maryland-bred. **Must be a verified Maryland stallion*

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For all Virginia program details contact the VTA - –
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